

U.S. slams Israel over shooting at Hussein's home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli security forces have been "extraordinarily lax" against those who have thrice fired shots outside the Jerusalem home of senior Palestinian official Faisal Hussein, the U.S. consul-general has charged. "I am extremely worried about the shot fired at Faisal Hussein's house," Ed Abington, the senior American diplomat in the holy city, told Friday's Jerusalem Post. "I do not understand why the government does not curb those who cross over the line of civil disobedience. Where is law and order? This is vigilante action which in any Western country would be condemned as premeditated harassment and the authorities would deal with it in a very firm fashion." Mr. Abington added that he believed Mr. Hussein, the de facto Palestinian "minister" for Jerusalem, when he said the Israelis not only fired in the air but also directly at his house. The consul questioned how the police could detain suspects and free them the next day. Police announced Thursday evening, apparently after Mr. Abington's outburst, that six Israelis, most of them West Bank settlers, had just been detained.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Amnesty denounces summary executions, torture in Algeria

LONDON (AFP) — Amnesty International said Friday that it wrote to Algerian President Liamine Zouari to denounce hundreds of cases of summary executions, torture and disappearances at the hands of Algerian security forces. The human rights advocacy group asked for thorough investigations into the allegations, saying that no human rights violations cases had been sufficiently investigated. "Killings seem to be used as an alternative to arrest," Amnesty said, adding that there were hundreds of "cases of reported extra-judicial executions, torture and 'disappearances' at the hands of the Algerian security forces." As for the other side in Algeria's civil war, Amnesty International "condemns unreservedly killings and other crimes against civilians committed by armed groups who define themselves as 'Islamic groups.'" No matter what violence is perpetrated by the "Islamic groups," however, it does not justify summary executions, recourse to torture and disappearances, Amnesty said.

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Conflict threatens all-out war Croat forces close on Knin

KNIN, Croatia (Agencies) — Croatia launched an all-out strike Friday to regain land taken by rebel Serbs four years ago, piercing defence lines around the Serb self-styled capital and claiming advances on several fronts. U.N. officials in Knin said the town was under heavy shelling, and Col. Andrew Leslie, a senior U.N. official in Knin, spoke of a "serious loss of human life" in the town. He did not elaborate, but rebel Serbs said they were holding off the advance. "For now, we're controlling the situation, and there is no panic," said Gen. Mile Mrksic, commander of the rebel Serbs. U.N. officials also accused the Croats of deliberately targeting U.N. peacekeepers in Serb-held regions outside Knin — a move that could bring on threatened NATO airstrikes. "We have been threatened by the Croats," Brig. Gen. Alain Forand, a senior U.N. military official in Knin, told Cable News Network. "They have fired artillery rounds and mortars at certain (U.N.) locations, and they have used aircraft against our observation posts."

NATO had threatened airstrikes against the Croats if they targeted peacekeepers, and NATO officials met Friday in Brussels to consider whether to respond militarily to the attacks, which left one U.N. soldier dead and several wounded. In Zagreb, U.N. spokesman Chris Gunness said Croatian jets attacked a U.N. observation post in the area of Gospić, in central Croatia. "Soon after, Croats issued an ultimatum to the peacekeepers to abandon the position or face more of the same," he said. Leah Melnick, a U.N. spokeswoman, said Croats were holding an unspecified number of peacekeepers after overrunning their observation posts in zones of separation between the hostile forces. The long-awaited attack increases the chance of the Bosnian and Croatian conflicts merging to engulf much of former Yugoslavia in the biggest Balkan confrontation since World War II. Croatia had massed troops for days around the Serb stronghold of Knin, threatening to retake it unless the Serbs agreed to give up their rebellion and rejoin Croatia. Yet on Thursday, the government dismissed the first Serb offer to discuss a peaceful reintegration of their territory. Despite Western pleas for restraint, Croatian troops began bombing Knin at 5

a.m. Between 200 and 300 shells hit the centre of town and front lines in the nearby mountains. Serb forces stationed in the hills returned fire. Col. Leslie said Croat troops had penetrated Serb defences near the town in several locations after hours of heavy shelling. But he could not confirm that Croatian forces had entered Knin itself. The railroad junction town, home to an estimated 10,000 people, was deserted, its people cowering in shelters, its houses burning. Smoke from artillery battles rose from the surrounding hills, and three fires burned in the town centre. The town hospital, forced to operate from its basement, reported eight civilians brought in, one of whom died. Another man was reported killed in his car. Knin's fall would be a huge blow to the rebel Serbs and their aspirations to build a "greater Serbia," joining their land and that controlled by Serbs in Bosnia with Serbia itself. Croatia also claimed advances on several other fronts, but Serbs claimed their forces were repelling all attacks. Col. Leslie said Croatian forces also fired on U.N. peacekeepers in observation posts. A Danish peacekeeper

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ROYAL VISIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Friday left for Europe on a private visit. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath are accompanied by Prince Rashid and Princess Badia'a. They were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Her Royal Highness Summayya Al Hassan and her husband Naser Joudeh, advisors, ministers and senior officials (Petra photo)

King: Iraq can play positive role in Middle East peace-making

DOHA (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has called for an end to the plight of the Iraqi people urging the world community in general and the Arab countries in particular to open a dialogue with Baghdad to pave the ground for a lifting of the U.N. sanctions and an end of the Iraqi people's sufferings.



His Majesty King Hussein in talks with Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani in Doha Thursday (Petra photo)

In an interview with the Qatari news agency released Friday one day after the King's return from a two-day visit to Doha during which he held talks with Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, King Hussein said: "I believe that within the framework of peace in the region Iraq, with its vast potentials, can play a role in the establishment of peace," adding that without Iraq, "there might not be a genuine and comprehensive peace."

"What is required from Iraq to offer in addition to what it has already done?" asked King Hussein. "If there are still specific points these should be declared publicly so that a dialogue and discussion can be initiated with the purpose of reaching a positive results."

"On my part I am continuously seeking a solution in this matter and I believe that the world should define its position clearly about its demands from Iraq," added King Hussein. He urged the Arab World to respond favourably to Baghdad's peace bids and to understand the difficult situation of the Iraqi people and seek to end their sufferings.

Responding to a question

about his own contacts over the Iraqi question, the King said that he received varying views from different parties. But what is strange about the situation, said King Hussein is that since the end of the Gulf war Baghdad has been trying to open direct dialogue with the United States and Arab parties but nothing has materialised yet while these parties have opened dialogue over other issues in different parts of the world.

Expressing Jordan's keenness on developing ties with Qatar, King Hussein said that Kingdom would always stand by the Gulf state with all its potential.

Describing the Jordanian-Qatari ties as excellent and continually growing, King Hussein said that the brotherly relations binding the two countries will always serve as a guideline for serving the peoples of the two countries stressing that his visit was a good

said he was hopeful that having overcome the most difficult stage in their history the Arab states will give serious thought to solidarity and joint action soon.

King Hussein returned to Amman Thursday following a two-day visit to Qatar where he held talks with Sheikh Hamad with whom he had a comprehensive review of bilateral ties and Arab affairs, the Middle East peace process and other issues of common concern.

Upon return to Amman in the company of the King, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker described the visit as very successful.

He said that Jordan and Qatar will work together to reestablish solidarity among Arab states.

A joint Jordanian-Qatari communique was issued in Amman and Doha.

The communique said the two sides reviewed scopes of cooperation in political, economic, investment, trade and cultural fields and signed an agreement for the creation of a higher joint Jordanian-Qatari committee cochaired by the two countries foreign ministers aimed at further expanding bilateral cooperation.

The committee will be holding its meetings annually alternately in Doha and

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. cautions Americans in Egypt

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. embassy in Cairo has received threats against U.S. government targets in Egypt and has warned American citizens in Egypt to be vigilant, the State Department said Friday. The warning distributed in the Egyptian capital linked the alert to the expected end by late September of the New York trial of a blind Egyptian cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, and others. Sheikh Abdul Rahman is accused of masterminding a plot to blow up New York landmarks in 1993. A brief State Department statement provided no details of the threats except that there was no evidence of specific threats against private Americans. It said the embassy was working with the Egyptian government to ensure the safety of U.S. facilities and personnel.

Japan's premier plans Middle East visit

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama is planning to visit several Middle Eastern nations in September, including Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia, Jiji Press has said. Cabinet spokesman Kozo Igarashi announced at a press conference that Mr. Murayama was planning to make an overseas trip next month, but that exact destinations were yet to be decided. The last visit to the Middle East by a Japanese prime minister, then Toshiki Kaifu, was in October 1990, when the region was rocked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Jailed Sudanese mothers, children freed

KHARTOUM (R) — All women prisoners in Sudan who were jailed with their children and women who committed minor offences have been freed, a Khartoum newspaper said Friday. The privately-owned Akbar Al Youm paper said Friday. Salih Abdul Rahim, head of parliament's social affairs committee, as saying only extreme cases should be punished with jail. The paper's report followed a warning late last month by Sudan's director-general Al Shaikh Al Rayah that there had been a marked deterioration in the country's jails. He said prisoners were going hungry and some were dying for lack of medical care. Financial assistance to prisons was totally inadequate, he added.

'Syria directing PKK actions in Germany'

BONN (AFP) — Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) operatives in Germany are being directed from Syria, a German security service official said Friday. Edward Vermader of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution — the German security service — said the PKK was coordinating its activities in Germany from its headquarters in the Syrian capital Damascus. The PKK has been banned in Germany since November 1993. Mr. Vermader told the German news agency DPA that the Damascus headquarters organised both PKK demonstrations and attacks carried out in Germany. The German authorities hold the PKK responsible for a new wave of arson attacks against Turkish interests that has hit Germany since July 24. Mr. Vermader said instructions normally arrived from Damascus a few hours before attacks were carried out.

Germany seeks clemency for U.S. death row inmate

BONN, Germany (AP) — The German foreign minister appealed Friday to Pennsylvania's governor to stop the execution of Mumia Abu Jamal, a journalist and former Black Panther on death row for killing a policeman. "I ask you to use all means at your disposal to stop the execution," Klaus Kinkel wrote to Gov. Tom Ridge. Mr. Kinkel also asked that three other death row inmates be spared. Copies of the letter were sent to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and to the Pennsylvania board of pardons, the foreign ministry said. Although it is unusual for a foreign government to intervene in such a case, it was not the first time Germany had appealed to a U.S. governor on behalf of an inmate.

Arafat, Peres to review stalled talks

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday in a bid to overcome obstacles blocking the spread of self-rule, a Palestinian official said Friday. Mr. Peres telephoned Mr. Arafat on Friday morning and the two men decided to have talks in the region on Monday, the PLO Leader's adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh told AFP. "They will follow up the latest round of talks which wrapped up on Friday and try to speed up the process," he said. "They will try to overcome obstacles."

Israel's foreign ministry could not confirm the date but said contacts were underway to arrange a meeting next week. "There is a need to inject some new ideas or initiatives into the talks to overcome some of the problems which have arisen in the last round," spokesman Vigal Palmor said. He refused to comment on statements from Palestinian officials that little progress has been made in a week of talks at the Red Sea resort of Eilat. "It's just one round out of many. It's useless to analyse one round at a time. We have to wait and see. The process is still going on."

Palestinian negotiators quit a working group on water-sharing a day early on Thursday. But talks on other aspects of the extension of autonomy across the West Bank continued through Friday morning. The PLO has called for international arbitration to solve the issue of water resources. Israel has rejected Palestinian demands to take control of West Bank water resources, saying the aquifers also run under part of Israel. The Jewish state pumps 650 million cubic metres of water from the aquifers each year, but only 160 million go to the Palestinians. "We did not resolve the hard core issues despite working day and night," Ahmed Korei, known as Abu Alaa, told Reuters at Eilat. He listed the main issues as the redeployment of Israeli

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Syria says Israel sabotaging peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria accused Israel on Friday of trying to sabotage the peace process by turning down a U.S. proposal for talks between their ambassadors in Washington. "By demanding that Syria first agree to talks between military experts on security arrangements, before the two ambassadors meet, Israel is continuing to put up obstacles," state radio charged. Damascus Radio accused the Jewish state of trying "to sabotage the peace process with Syria and Lebanon," which aligns its stand with Damascus. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, accusing Syria of reneging on a deal to hold follow-up negotiations between military experts, has spurned a U.S. call to resume talks at the level of ambassadors. Their armed forces chiefs

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Nejem pleads not guilty to charge of bombing World Trade Centre

NEW YORK (R) — The alleged driver of the van that carried a bomb into the World Trade Centre in 1993, who was extradited from Jordan to New York on Thursday, pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges related to the fatal blast. The suspect, identified as Eyad Mahmoud Ismail Nejem entered his plea through a court-appointed lawyer in a five-minute hearing at Manhattan Federal Court. He was ordered back in court on Aug. 16. The charges stem from the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing that killed six people, injured 1,000 and caused millions of dollars in damage to the 110-story twin towers in Manhattan. "He is charged with the planning stages, execution stages and particularly transportation of the bomb," U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White told a news conference before Mr.

Nejem's arraignment. The head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in New York, James Kallstrom, told the same news conference. "He was the driver of the van that was left in the garage (of the World Trade Centre)." White said the 24-year-old suspect was flown from Jordan to New York City for Thursday's arraignment. President Bill Clinton welcomed the development, applauding law enforcement for their "defiant handling of the case" and saying in a statement: "Once again we have shown that terrorism will not pay."

Mr. Nejem appeared before U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy, who has sentenced four other Muslim men to more than 240 years in prison for the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing. A fifth man, the alleged mastermind of the plot, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef,

was arrested in Pakistan last February and is still awaiting trial. The suspect's family maintained he was innocent and said he had no fundamentalist tendencies. "I have a sweeping feeling that he is innocent because he decided and chose to go to New York and to meet the officials there," said his father, Mahmoud. Mr. White and Mr. Kallstrom said Mr. Nejem, who is identified in the indictment as Eyad Ismail, went to school in Kuwait with Mr. Yousef and was expected to be tried with him on a date yet to be announced. If convicted, both men face a maximum of life imprisonment without parole.

In the indictment, the U.S. government alleged that on about Feb. 9, 1993, Mr. Yousef called Mr. Nejem at a grocery store in Dallas, Texas, and the two ex-

changed calls from a coin-operated phone outside the New Jersey house where the 544 kg bomb was made. Mr. Nejem left the United States on the night of the bombing as did Mr. Yousef, according to the indictment. The government believes another suspect who is still a fugitive, Abdul Rahman Yasin, left the country on March 5, 1993. Officials said the new suspect is not one of the six men originally indicted in the bombing and that he has never been identified before. In Amman, Justice Minister Hisham Al Tell said the suspect was arrested in Jordan on July 31, a day after Amman received an official extradition request from the United States. The U.S. officials said Mr. Nejem had first entered the United States in 1989 from

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Sudanese rebels say rivals killed 145 people

NAIROBI (R) — A South Sudanese rebel group said a rival group massacred 145 people, mainly women and children, and wounded more than 250 last Sunday in western Upper Nile province.

U.N. aid workers were unable to confirm the casualty report but said the violence may have resulted from a cattle-rustling raid.

In a statement the South Sudan Independence Army (SSIA) said a total of 145 people, mostly women and children, were killed and more than 250 wounded had arrived at Ganyiel in Payin-jar district for treatment.

It said gunmen of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) took 4,000 head of cattle, burned down 35 villages, destroyed crops and looted mosquito nets, fishing nets and hooks in the attack.

"On the other hand the SPLA left behind 90 of their own dead and two RPD46 light machineguns and three AKM-47 rifles captured by the SSIA forces in a battle that lasted for nine hours," it said.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) said six aid workers for the International Rescue Committee and their camp cook were evacuated from the area Sunday because of insecurity but she could not confirm the casualty reports.

"The SSIA says it was the SPLA and some people may have thought it was a military attack because some of the attackers were in uniform or patently in uniform," said spokeswoman Liz Kramer. "But it may have been cattle-raiding, which has been going on in that area since mid-June. Cattle-

raiding is a traditional thing but as they now have AK-47s instead of spears it is a lot more dangerous," she said.

The SSIA, led by Reik Machar, urged the international community Thursday to condemn "this barbaric act of the SPLA against innocent civilians" and called for aid agency help to resettle people from Ganyiel after "this traumatic incident."

The SPLA denied Monday attacking Ganyiel and breaking a peace agreement with the SSIA, which split from it in 1991.

The rebels have been fighting Khartoum's forces since 1983 for more autonomy for the mainly animist and Christian south.

Meanwhile, Sudanese rebels movement appealed Friday to the international community to assist victims and survivors of the recent attack in southern Sudan.

In a statement issued here, the South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIMA) said some 35 villages were burnt down and crops destroyed in the surprise attack, the statement said, warning that the "barbaric massacre would greatly jeopardise the ongoing peace process between the two rebel movements and create serious consequences."

"The desperate situation of the victims can only be alleviated if the international community and non-governmental organisations donated humanitarian assistance in the form of food, medicine, drugs, blankets, mosquito nets, fishing hooks and nets," the statement said.

It added that the attack had affected food crops in the region.

U.S. plan to give frigates to Mideast draws fire

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A plan by the U.S. Navy to transfer six Perry-class frigates to Middle Eastern nations free of charge drew sharp criticism from Republicans and Democrats at a House International Relations Committee hearing.

Under the navy's plan, as presented by Rear Admiral W. H. Wright, assistant deputy chief of naval operations, Egypt and Turkey would receive two frigates apiece, while Bahrain and Oman would each receive one. Each of these transactions would be made as grants and thus involve no cost to the recipient.

A seventh frigate would be leased at a cost of \$3.1 million per year by the United Arab Emirates.

"My impression here is that you're giving away a lot," the committee's ranking Democrat, Lee Hamilton, told Adm. Wright. Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman agreed. "It is obvious there is some skepticism with regard to these sales."

Adm. Wright defended the navy's plan in terms of the close relations the United States has with the nations involved. "I believe these transfers are essential to our future ability to operate with friendly countries in this volatile area," he said. "Both for the sake of interoperability and as force multipliers, the presence of these ships would be a manifestation of continuing U.S. commitment to those countries that have asked their national future on ties with the United States."

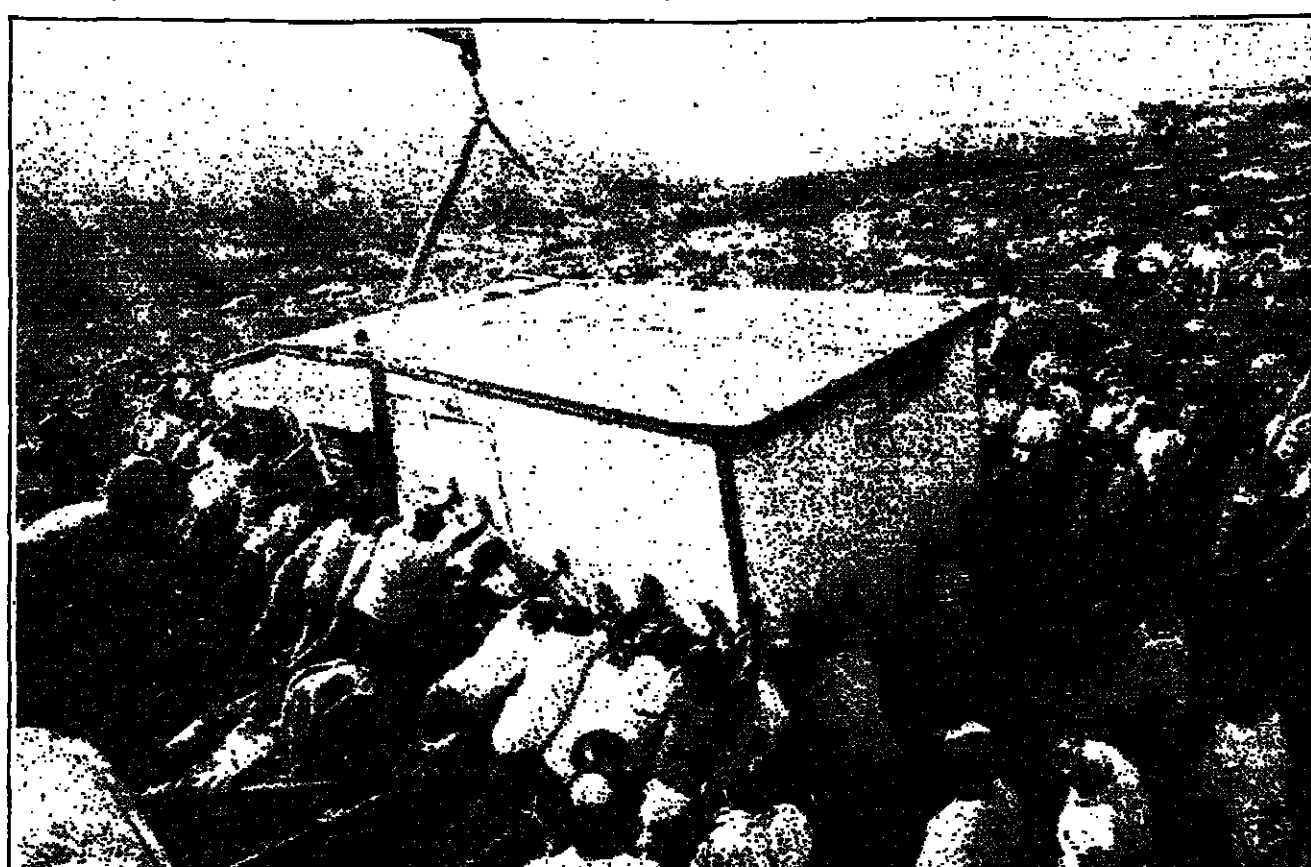
Adm. Wright pointed out that the end of the cold war had led a number of Western nations to reduce the size of their navies, leading to a "buyer's market" for those purchasing surplus ships.

However, he agreed with Mr. Hamilton's comment that the precedent of giving ships away would make it hard to sell or lease them in the future.

The navy, Adm. Wright added, has decided that it will no longer make available ships as grants.

Youths try to set fire to Mary's Tomb

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Three Arab youths were suspected of trying to set fire to Mary's Tomb in East Jerusalem, police said Friday. The trio were believed to have smoked hashish in the Greek Orthodox shrine before setting fire to a wooden altar. A monk put out the flames with his robe. The church appealed for improved protection from Israeli police. "We do not feel secure," said Metropolitan Timothy, secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.



PRELUDE TO A SETTLEMENT: Jewish settlers put up a caravan on a hillside near the settlement Qadumim (seen on top right). The 300 settlers that gathered here in the north West Bank area were confronted by hundreds of Israeli soldiers and police that started to evacuate them until a pledge from President Ezer Weizman made the settlers stop their action for a few days to try to come to an agreement with the government. The settlers campaign is aimed to stop the widening of Palestinian autonomy (AFP photo)

Israeli colonel admits executing Egyptian PoWs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli war hero admitted in an interview published Friday that he shot dead in cold blood as many as 49 Egyptian prisoners during the 1956 Suez War.

"I myself opened fire on 40 to 49 Egyptian soldiers who were captured near the Mitleh Pass," retired parachute Colonel Aryeh Biro, told the weekly magazine Jerusalem.

"I did not have enough men to guard them and we had to move forward towards Sharm Al Sheikh," the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula.

He was leading a parachute unit of the 890th Battalion commanded by Raphael Eytan under Ariel Sharon. Gen. Sharon became defence minister and is still a prominent MP with the right-wing Likud Party while Gen. Eytan, who was later made chief of staff, heads the far-right Tzomet Party.

The Israeli army's history department revealed in July that 35 Egyptians had been massacred by a unit of the battalion commanded by Gen. Eytan.

But Gen. Eytan claimed he could not remember exact details. "It was war, there were battles. We were stranded, isolated and encircled," he said.

The unit dropped behind Egyptian lines at the western entrance to the pass, 12 kilometres from the Suez Canal, on Oct. 29. "I am solely responsible for what happened," Col. Biro said. "I consulted no one and my conscience is clear."

"But I would stress that I do not hate Arabs and I do not like war. It might seem strange but going off to war means killing the enemy to me and being killed."

Asked how he would have reacted if the enemy had executed Israeli prisoners, Col. Biro replied: "I did not expect my men to get captured. I expected them to fight."

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Alliance against Saddam falls apart — opposition

DUBAI, UAE (AFP) — The alliance between Arab and Kurds opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has fallen apart and northern Iraq is no longer a safe haven, a leading opposition figure said Friday.

Retired General Hassan Al Naqib said the Iraqi National Congress (INC) alliance was "finished" and that the lives of Arab opposition figures in

Iraqi Kurdistan were in danger.

He accused militiamen of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of having searched his home in Salahadin, in northern Iraq which has been controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since 1991, "to pressure him."

"I won't go back to northern Iraq any more because I cannot work properly there."

It's a hopeless situation," he told the Arab daily Al Hayat from the Syrian capital.

"The Arab branch (of the opposition) is the most important, and the INC is no longer capable of assuring the fall of Saddam Hussein," said the Sunni Muslim retired general.

Another key Sunni opposition figure, Wafiq Al Samarrai, charged that KDP leader Massud Barzani had tried to have him assassinated since his defection to northern Iraq last December.

Mr. Barzani had "struck a deal with the Iraqi regime to drive out the Arab opposition from the areas he controls," said Mr. Samarrai, a former chief of the Iraqi army's secret service.

Lebanese family probes son's mystery kidnap

BCHAMOUN, Lebanon (R) — Newspaper photographs show the boy smiling, but behind the happy face lies the tragedy of a family devastated by an unsolved kidnapping reminiscent of the darkest chapters of Lebanon's civil war.

Newspaper advertisements and posters of 12-year-old Amid Eid adorn road signs across Lebanon as part of the family's latest effort to solve the two-year-old abduction, which was followed by telephone demands for \$1 million.

"Our child has not returned home for two years. I don't see any security. My other son is not safe. I can't let him go anywhere alone," said Amid's businessman father, Nimeh Eid, 45.

"We want to keep this issue alive to reach a conclusion because the government is always talking about the security and stability of the state, but we don't see it," he told Reuters.

"Expatriates should think twice before thinking all is safe here. They should think of their kids," added Mr. Eid, who returned in 1990 from Liberia, where he ran a business for 25 years.

Sectional militias kidnapped an estimated 17,000 people during the 1975-90 civil war and few returned alive. But Amid was seized three years after the guns fell silent.

Police say kidnapping for ransom is extremely rare in Lebanon, even during the civil war.

"Amid was on his way to get bread. Suddenly a blue Datsun stopped near the house and the last heard from him was his scream 'father father' Mr. Eid said, choking back tears.

"I am living in a whirlpool," said his mother, Jinan, black circles under her eyes making her look older than her 36 years. "News of his death would be easier for me than this waiting."

The Eids' indignation at what they see as official neglect of the case prompted them to begin their own investigation into their son's fate. They are also turning the heat on the government to do more.

A visit by Jinan to President Elias Hrawi had no apparent result and the couple have failed to get help from billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri.

"You can't even meet Hariri. I have made about 200 phone calls to Hariri's office. They always tell me he is either busy or out of the country or you can't see him," Mr. Eid said.

The Eids learned of the kidnapping a few hours after Amid disappeared when a taxi brought a letter from the captors to them in the mountain village of Bachamoun southeast of Beirut.

Telephone calls demanding \$1 million followed and Mr. Eid's offer of \$150,000 was rejected.

Police traced one call to a shop in Aley, a Druze mountain resort, and a second to Christian east Beirut, Mr. Eid said. They also traced the envelope carrying the letters and have drawn rough sketches of the captors from accounts of witnesses.

"But the police have made no further progress, so the couple decided to act on their own."

To put pressure on authorities to act, the Eids plan a protest sit-in. They already run daily newspaper advertisements offering a \$60,000 reward for information leading to Amid's return.

They plan to send a letter to the United Nations and have appealed for help to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, whose 35,000 troops in Lebanon give him enormous influence.

Mr. Eid has a list of licence plate numbers in the area of the type of Datsun car witnesses say Amid's captors drove.

"I am doing their work for them," he said after months glued to radio communications devices he bought for local police in case any news about Amid broke.

"I closed my liquor shop because I can't concentrate or work. All I think about is my son. I will follow this case to the end, even if I sell my house," he added.

After nearly two years without word from the kidnappers, the only solace left are photographs of the smiling boy.

"They're solving other crimes quickly. What is behind this one that no one wants to touch it?" asked Jinan, who has vowed never to set foot outside her home until Amid returns safely.

"Just let them tell me, even if he is dead. I will do a wake for him and then forget," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Immigration to Israel climbs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of immigrants arriving in Israel climbed two per cent to 34,500 in the first half of 1995 compared to the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported. Despite the increase the figures were below the Absorption Ministry's predictions of 90,000 new arrivals for the whole of 1995. More than 650,000 people have flooded into the Jewish state since 1989, the majority from the ex-Soviet Union. The immigrants have boosted the population of Israel to 5.5 million people.

UAE president to visit Egypt, Syria

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan will visit Egypt and Syria next week for talks on political and economic issues, officials said Friday. Sheikh Zayed, 78, will fly to Cairo Monday for a three-day official visit before heading for Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad, they said. The UAE, a key Gulf oil producer, has promised to provide financial aid to the two countries in line with an economic agreement within the five-year-old Damascus Declaration, which groups the three countries with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar. The Abu Dhabi Development Fund has already financed several development projects in Syria and Egypt through loans and grants of more than \$500 million, nearly 15 per cent of its total loans. Syria, which maintains good ties with Iran, has offered to mediate in its dispute with the UAE over the three strategic Gulf islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

Yemeni police seize 60 kg of hashish

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni police destroyed 60 kilos (132 pounds) of hashish worth \$80,000 and arrested five Africans after finding the stash on the Red Sea island of Zukar, officials said Friday. The suspects, whose nationality was not specified, were trying to smuggle the drugs to a neighbouring country, said police, who later burnt the shipment. Yemen shares its borders with Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Lebanese man held for cash laundering

BEIRUT (AFP) — Police arrested a prominent Lebanese businessman on suspicion of laundering drugs money after an investigation into a gang bringing large sums of cash into Beirut airport, legal sources said Friday. Ghassan Matragi, chairman of an import-export company who formerly ran a private medical care firm, is the most influential businessman yet to be arrested by the country's anti-drugs squad. His brother, Saeb Matragi, an unsuccessful candidate in the 1992 general election, is an in-law of former Interior Minister Sami Al Khattib. A legal source said the anti-drugs gang had dismantled a gang of traffickers but added: "The inquiry is continuing in the greatest secrecy."

Wedding party ends in tragedy in Israel

NAZARETH, Israel (AFP) — A wedding party ended in tragedy in an Arab village in Israel when guests began firing shots of joy in the air, killing the singer in the band. Several stray bullets hit Abdul Mohi, 40, as he belted out a dance tune before 400 people at the village of Kfar Mashahed, near Nazareth, on Thursday night. Police said numerous cars parked nearby were also damaged by flying bullets.

2 Turks admit rape of tourists

ALANYA, Turkey (AP) — Two Turkish defendants accused of raping four women tourists and then slitting their throats admitted to the charges at their trial, the Anatolia News Agency reported. Two of the women were killed in the attacks, which drew strong protests from the local population. Ali Guldali and Gazi Koleglu said they originally denied the charges because another defendant, Hakan Karayavuz, threatened them with death if they incriminated him. Anatolia added. The attacks on a tourist from Georgia and three Dutch women occurred on consecutive nights May 21-22. After the sexual assaults, the assailants slit their victims' throats. The woman from Georgia and one of the Dutch were killed. Guldali and Koleglu told the packed courtroom in this Mediterranean resort city how, under orders from Karayavuz, they had taken part in the crimes. Karayavuz did not testify in court, but said he would submit a written statement at the next session, scheduled Aug. 31. Shopkeepers closed their stores for a day in protest of the crimes in May. The defendants were forced to hire lawyers from Istanbul when local lawyers refused to represent them.

Kuwait enforces smoking ban from October

KUWAIT (R) — A ban on smoking in Kuwaiti government offices, restaurants, schools and hotels will take effect on Oct. 1, newspapers reported. Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Mheilan issued an order on identifying public places where smoking is prohibited under anti-smoking legislation passed by parliament on May 2. Al Watan and the English-language Arab Times said. The ban, one of the toughest moves in the Arab World to curb tobacco use, also outlaws cigarette advertising. It has been signed into law by the Emir Sheikh Al Ahmad Al Sabah. The law stipulates that the ban on smoking in public buildings will come into force only after the government identifies the sites affected by the ban. All places affected by the ban must provide separate areas for smokers to use. Mr. Mheilan's order covers schools, libraries, Kuwait University, places of worship, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, restaurants, hotels, indoor cultural and sports centres, government ministries, shopping malls and supermarkets.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Back to the Future
14:30	Harry and the Hendersons
15:00	Road to Avonlea
16:00	Families
17:00	Children's programme — Spirou
17:30	Doc — Cost Pas Sorcier
18:00	Drama
19:00	S. News in French
19:15	Magazine — Fast Pas Revers
19:30	New Headlines
19:35	First Flights
20:00	Major Dad
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman
22:00	News in English
22:30	Film: "Touch and Die"
23:30	Fortunate Pilgrim
PRAYER TIMES	
04:21	Fajr
05:48	(Sunrise) Duha
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	Asr
19:35	Maghreb
21:02	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	
Swedish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 63783	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman 17 / 30	
Aqaba 24 / 37	
Desert 16 / 34	
Jordan Valley 22 / 36	
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 47 per cent.
Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Belbeisi 663412
Dr. Mazen Al Nballi 830435
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744605
Dr. Basam Karadshah 792020
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Al Solan pharmacy 636730
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

TERESA:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hili 279773
Alqods pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasch 982779
Khalilich pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697407
Amman Municipality 63101
Complaints 771111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 773111
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Aklich Maternity, J. Ann 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Muasher 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital 02127555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02127275
The Al Nafes Hospital 021247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia In-
ternational Airport Tel. (06)53200-
5, where it should always be veri-
fied.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)

05:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Hanabi (RJ)
19:00 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
19:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:50 Tunis (sds) (RJ)
20:40 Vienna (RJ)
22:20 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Beirut (RJ)
06:25 Amman (RJ)
11:10 Damascus (AZ)
13:40 Sharjah, Doha (GF)
15:10 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:40 Larnaca (CY)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

06:00 Beirut (RJ)
06:40 Aqaba (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:40 London, Vienna (RJ)
15:10 Paris (RJ)
19:00 Cairo (MS)
19:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:50 Tunis (sds) (RJ)
20:40 Vienna (RJ)
22:20 Madrid (RJ)

number of immigrants in the period last year, the Jordan Ministry's preliminary figures show. The whole of 1995, Jordan's population is expected to reach 5.5 million. The population of Israel is 5.5 million.

Home News

sit Egypt, Syria

ited Arab Emirates Sultan Al Nahayan will visit Jordan on Friday. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, is expected to arrive in Amman on Friday. He will be accompanied by his wife, Latifa bint Mohammed bin Zayed. The visit is part of a series of high-level meetings between the two countries.

60 kg of hashish

Police destroyed 60 kg of hashish on the Red Sea. The police said the hashish was found in a container belonging to a company based in Saudi Arabia. The hashish was found in a container that was being transported from Saudi Arabia to Jordan.

or cash laundered

estimated a prominent Jordanian businessman has laundered large sums of money in Jordan. The businessman is said to have laundered millions of dollars in cash through his company. The Jordanian government is investigating the case.

In tragedy in Israel

A wedding party in Israel was killed in a suicide bombing. The bombing took place in a crowded area and resulted in the deaths of several people. The Israeli government is investigating the attack.

of tourists

Two Turkish tourists were charged with the murder of a woman in Jordan. The woman was found dead in a hotel room. The two tourists are being held in custody and are facing charges of murder.

ing ban from Odessa

smoking in Kuwait and Jordan. The ban is part of a series of measures to improve public health. The ban applies to all public places and is enforced by the police.

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Apple	1.50
Banana	1.20
Carrot	0.80
Cauliflower	1.00
Cucumber (large)	0.50
Cucumber (small)	0.40
Eggplant	1.20
Garlic	0.60
Grapes	2.00
Lemon	0.80
Marrow (large)	1.50
Marrow (small)	1.00
Mulika	1.20
Okra	0.80
Onion	0.50
Orange	1.00
Peas	1.20
Pepper (hot)	1.50
Pepper (sweet)	1.00
Potato	0.80
String Beans	1.20
Sweet Melon	1.50
Tomato	0.80
Water Melon	1.00

Queen Noor: Every member of society should contribute to the well-being of community

Following is the full text of an interview that Her Majesty Queen Noor gave to Al-Suhar Wal-Hayat magazine on Friday.

Question: What are the NHF projects in the realm of child health care? What is its philosophy on health issues and its future plans?
Answer: The NHF has three projects that are active in the field of child health care: the Institute for Child Health and Development, which is directly involved in child health care and two other projects that are indirectly involved: the Quality of Life Project and the Population Programme for the Grassroots.

The Institute for Child Health and Development was founded in 1986 with the support of the Swedish "Save the Children" to raise child health care standards in Jordan by improving growth monitoring, diagnosis and treatment practices. It is the first and only facility to monitor and assess child growth and development. It conducts primary field research among children, and provides information to parents and teachers to increase awareness of early signs of childhood diseases and disabilities.

The institute includes a model Mother and Child Health (MCH) Clinic and also has a Child Development Unit, which provides development assessment and supervision of minor and moderate disabilities through play therapy, and designs programmes to improve the monitoring of physical health, psychological and social needs of children under the age of six. It has an aggressive outreach programme that provides follow-up care and education for new mothers and the entire family on hygiene, nutrition, family planning and proper methods of breast feeding.

The institute's main objectives are to introduce the concept of comprehensive child care to health professionals in the MCH services, to train child development specialists particularly in early detection and management of disabilities and to study and research the health issues of Jordanian mothers and children. Its emphasis on prevention and early detection differentiates the institute from other MCH centres.

Harvard University's Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East cited the institute as a model for its comprehensive approach and described its "psycho-social" services as the best of any country in the region.

The Quality of Life Project was initiated in cooperation with the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health. Its holistic development approach caters to the economic, social and cultural needs by integrating income-generating schemes, health, education, national heritage, the environment and community participation in the programme. The health component focuses on pre- and post-natal care, family planning and health education. The Noor Al Hussein Foundation has developed this project as a national model for socio-economic development in Jordan.

We are honoured that both the Institute and the Quality of Life Project have been recognised by international and United Nations organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as model projects for the Middle East and the developing world. Furthermore, WHO is also planning to establish a regional centre in Jordan based on the methodology of the Quality of Life Project.

Jordan, which are served by the Institute for Child Health and Development and the Quality of Life Project.

NHF philosophy on health issues

All our projects at NHF are based on a comprehensive approach that incorporates health education and medical services with integrated socio-economic development. We stress the importance of primary health care, empowering the communities to meet their own health needs and providing educational and training centres that support the national effort to raise the standard of health care in Jordan.

Future plans for child health care

We at the NHF hope that the Institute for Child Health and Development will evolve into a regional training and consultative centre and will be affiliated with the National Children's Hospital, which is a long cherished dream for the people of Jordan. Upon construction, we hope that the hospital will be the first in the Kingdom to meet tertiary, secondary and some local primary health care needs of children in the 0-16 years age group; it will be accessible to all economic strata of Jordan's population. The hospital will not only be a centre for pediatric medical services, but also a site for graduate medical education for pediatric, surgical, dental and allied scientific disciplines. It will also include a centre for the assessment of child development, the treatment of cerebral palsy and will perform a comprehensive programme of family guidance.

Q: How does Your Majesty evaluate the standard of medical services offered by the public and private sector since Jordan has now become a regional medical centre?
A: The standard of public and private health care services in Jordan is very high due to our many qualified specialists and diverse medical services. To maintain the raise in these standards, Jordan must increase the number of public MCH centres and improve the performance and services of existing centres. Although the percentage of women who give birth under medical supervision is relatively high for the region and our child birth mortality rate is comparatively low, Jordan must strive to provide women with health services at all stages of their lives because women's health affects that of the family as a whole.

We also need to increase the availability of the essential services provided by public and private health centres to enable mothers to opt for spaced pregnancies. We should promote the formulation of multidisciplinary teams, which would include doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. As the Honorary President of the Jordan Physiotherapy Association, I am very concerned by the absence of physiotherapy training in Jordan and find it essential to establish rehabilitation departments in public and private universities, which would teach physiotherapy as well as occupational and speech therapy and would award the graduates university degrees rather than diplomas.

We also need to establish research and assessment centres for the early detection and treatment of childhood disabilities and to increase the rehabilitative centres for the disabled in Jordan, which currently only satisfy two per cent of their needs. Due to our region's young population and high rates of fertility and population growth, it is likely that today's 13 to 15 million disabled Arab nationals may reach 20 million by the year 2000. I do not wish to paint a totally bleak picture of our region, which can boast several notable achievements such as steadily rising infant and child immunisation rates, resulting in corresponding decline in infant-related disabilities, a sharp increase in social action by private and

non-governmental groups, the impact of education on traditional attitudes to inter-marriage and dealing with disabled family members and finally greater sensitivity to the special needs of the disabled in day-to-day life. Full integration of the disabled should go beyond traditional efforts to help them adapt to their environment through training and rehabilitation. As a society, we must adapt the physical and social environment to the needs of the disabled, particularly in planning projects undertaken by the public sector. This would allow them to enjoy greater independence and self-reliance, which are an essential first step towards their full integration in society.

Q: What are the most prominent issues related to science, health and child welfare that concern Your Majesty?
A: I encourage all mothers to breastfeed their babies as I breastfed all my children up to the age of seven months. The World Health Organisation (WHO) now believes that over one million children could be saved if all babies were exclusively breastfed the first six months. I hope that all hospitals in our country will follow the lead of two of our major public hospitals in adopting UNICEF's "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative" by rooming a mother with her newborn child, promoting breastfeeding and discouraging breast milk substitutes. In addition to breast feeding my children, I also made sure that they regularly received their immunisation shots and it is a source of pride for me and for the country that Jordan's child immunisation rates against polio and measles are comparable to that of developed nations.

Physical affection during the early years for a child, which comprise one of the most critical stages in their development, is very important. I was struck by a study, which found that children who are constantly hugged by their parents grow taller than children whose parents did not demonstrate their affection physically. On my part, I maintained the closest possible contact with Hamzah, Hashim, Iman and Raiyah during the early years of their lives and continue to do so.

In addition to child health, educating children and making them aware of and active in global issues is vital. I got my children involved in environmental programmes from a very early age and am delighted that they accompany me on my tree planting campaigns and are becoming quite active in pollution and garbage control. School curricula should emphasise environmental issues and encourage their students to join community service programmes. The Jubilee School, one of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation projects, emphasises a diverse community service programme and its students regularly take part in environmental clean up endeavours.

Another project affiliated with Noor Al Hussein Foundation project is Jordan's first Children's Science Museum, which helps children understand the scientific and ecological cycles of life. The children can touch and manipulate the museum's exhibits to learn about the development of humankind through the ages, natural history, geography, science, the environment, outer space and the diverse cultures of the world. We also obtained a mobile science museum for children living in rural areas. Housed in a large truck, the museum's exhibits focus on health and hygiene, the sciences, environmental protection and the history of Jordan.

Regarding women's health, one of the most pressing issues is breast cancer, which is the highest incidence of cancer among Jordanian women. I have routine mammograms and regular self-examinations and strongly urge all women to do the same. Jordanian doctors also advise that women undergo yearly Pap smear screening tests for the early detection

of cervical cancer.

Q: How does Your Majesty evaluate the role of international organisations working in the field of mother and child welfare to combat the various disabilities and diseases afflicting children?
A: International organisations such as WHO and UNICEF have made great strides in mother and child health care by introducing various programmes such as the baby-friendly hospitals, urging international vaccination programmes, providing information on how to combat malnutrition and deficiency diseases and putting forth low-cost measures to combat childhood diseases such as breastfeeding, iodizing salt and ORT (oral rehydration therapy), which could prevent half the diarrheal deaths of children.

WHO and UNICEF in particular have supported our national efforts to combat the causes of childhood disabilities by focusing on disease prevention through immunisation and early detection and treatment of disabilities. However, I must emphasise that international agencies function through our national programmes — the more active we are, the more benefit we will get from them.

Q: How can we improve the role of national and international organisations working in the field of mother and child health care?
A: On the international level, countries should cooperate fully with international health organisations by assisting them in compiling accurate information, which would indicate the countries' strengths and weaknesses in mother and child health care (there are many areas such as the abuse of women and children which are not well-documented). This would enable international organisations to offer policies that suit the country's needs and are sensitive to the cultures and traditions of the country (especially in areas like birth-spacing). Countries should also ratify and implement the U.N. conventions on the rights of the child and the upcoming 4th World Conference for Women.

On the national level, we must enhance the role of women in the field of health and focus on women both as dispensers and beneficiaries of health services. This involves making academic and training positions available thus enabling women to occupy leading positions in the field of health. We should raise public awareness about the importance of primary health care, especially of mother and child health care services by educating women on pertinent health issues, developing health education programmes and encouraging the mass media to play an active part in the field of health education and awareness. It is imperative that we motivate support and upgrade the level of professionals working at mother and child health care centres by promoting the practice of multidisciplinary teams and encouraging community involvement in the work of these centres.

Q: Would Your Majesty say a few words to the readers of our magazine in Jordan and in neighbouring Arab countries and especially to those working in the field of health?
A: Every member of society can and should contribute to the well-being of his/her community in a variety of ways that include volunteering at various health centres, which are usually understaffed and overwhelmed, becoming "health activists" by raising public awareness on pertinent health issues, adopting and promoting a healthy life-style.

I hope that, as a country, we will work hard to maintain and improve the standard of health care in Jordan by focusing on a comprehensive health approach through the promotion of multidisciplinary medical teams, becoming more active in the field of research and subsequently developing national programmes that will tackle health issues of importance to our communities.

Crown Prince warns of spread of Bosnia conflict, commends peace keepers

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness' Crown Prince Hassan has warned against the dangers of expansion of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia beyond that nation's boundaries saying a spill over of the fighting would have grave consequences on the world at large.

The Crown Prince, who was addressing senior officers of the army paid tribute to the Jordan Armed Forces' role in helping the victims of aggression in Yugoslavia and referred to the Kingdom's relentless efforts to help bring about a settlement to the conflict.

Jordan has more than 3,200 troops serving in

Croatia in the U.N. peace keeping force.

The ethnic and factional fighting in these Balkan states should be halted before it is allowed to extend to other regions, Prince Hassan stressed, adding that this has been the position that His Majesty King Hussein has been promoting in his contacts with other world leaders to come to a just settlement of the crisis.

The King has been in contact with the leaders of many countries including Turkey, Greece and Iran which have direct relationships with Bosnian affairs, and he has urged these countries to exert efforts to end the conflict said the Crown Prince.

Before addressing the military officers, Prince Hassan met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Marei Kaabneh and his assistants with whom he discussed the role of the Jordanian troops within the U.N. peace keeping force.

Also Thursday, Prince Hassan received in his office Minister of Tourism in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Elias Freij and reviewed progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and reiterated Jordan's supportive stand to the Palestinian people and Jordan's keen concern over the future status of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Mr. Freij said the PNA appreciates Jordan's backing of the Palestinian people's endeavours to attain freedom.

He briefed the Crown Prince on the latest developments in the negotiations on expanding the self-rule areas in Palestine.

Mr. Freij also outlined the problems facing the Palestinians with regard to laying the infrastructure for Palestinian institutions, and issues related to public services and water supply.

The two sides discussed issues related to future cooperation between the Palestinians and Jordan in different fields.

Jerash festival sees rise in audiences

Closing days blend folklore and classics

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 14th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts draws its curtains today on a folkloric note: dances by St. Peter Freienstein from Austria at the Artemis Steps and a performance by the Lucnica Folklore group from Slovakia at the Forum Theatre in Jerash.

The Jerash Festival, launched in 1980 on the initiative of Her Majesty Queen Noor to encourage intercultural exchange, is also a crucial event in Jordan's policy to promote domestic and international tourism.

Though the number of visitors definitely increased compared to last year, "attendance this year was a bit below our expectations," Programme Manager of the festival Lubna Far said.

According to Ms. Far, more colourful and energetic performances, especially in the promotional phase, will be called for in next year's 15th Jerash Festival, and the 1996 event is predicted to be even more "magnificent."

Two outstanding events marked some of the final beats of this year's festival: a piano concert by Alberto Pomeranz at Mount Nebo last Wednesday evening, and the performance by the Eugene Ballet Company, from the U.S., at the Royal Cultural Centre, also last week.

In the evocative atmosphere of the courtyard outside the Memorial Church built in honour of Moses on Mount Nebo and overlooking one of the most spectacular views of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, Mr. Pomeranz's interpretation of Beethoven's, for which this Italian maestro is internationally celebrated, was highlighted by the intense colours of the sunset.

Besides Beethoven's "The Storm," the programme included works by Clementi and Mussorgsky.

As a pianist for the Orchestra da Camera in Rome, Mr. Pomeranz has performed in the international arena and has recorded a profuse number of works.

With the unique backdrop of Mount Nebo, an unusual site for an event of the Jerash Festival, the evening was organised to suit all the tastes of an audience's senses. The Pomeranz recital was followed by an Italian dinner under the stars.

The second remarkable event of the festival's last days was a performance by the American dance troupe, the Eugene Ballet Company, from the city of Eugene, Oregon, directed by Toni Pimble.

It was the only ballet included in the programme, but the enthusiastic participation of a large audience showed that a significant sector of the Jordanian public is familiar with and fond of this art.

The eight versatile dancers



Alberto Pomeranz

participating at the festival, (the company numbers a total of 20 dancers), performed a varied and challenging bill that provided non-connoisseurs with a precious opportunity to taste the trends of contemporary choreography.

The curtain-raising "Columba Aspetit," a 12th century piece of music, was followed by a sparkling and intriguing "Tango for Five" with music by Astor Piazzola, and the "Children of the Raven," a daring transposition of American Northwest traditional stories into the language of dance.

The choreography was directed by Toni Pimble, who has worked for the well-known New York City Ballet and the Atlanta Ballet.

Ms. Pimble's work — sustaining a purity in lines, a sobriety in figures, and shrewd quotation — was impeccable.

TCC boosts telephone channels to 4,000

Amman (Petra) — Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director Walid Dweik Thursday said the TCC installed a new exchange in June, increasing to 4,000 up from 3,000 the number of channels in the country in order to meet increased pressure on the network during the summer. In an apparent reference to complaints about the national network's capacity to cope with high demand periods, particularly last July when the Tawjili results were announced, Mr. Dweik said the number of telephone calls traced by the

corporation's totalled about 500,000 in one hour in the Abdali area alone, a load, he said, which is beyond the technical capacity of the system. He said the corporation can monitor and control only 200,000 calls per hour. The extraordinary load, he said, occurs rarely on special occasions such as holidays and high school graduation time. Mr. Dweik said the TCC is working on providing 250,000 more telephone lines by the end of 1998, in addition to the necessary channels. He said a new network, will be completed by the end of August.

Japan to grant Jordan \$8m to improve garbage treatment, disposal problems

Amman (Petra) — Japan will grant Jordan \$8 million to finance a project to improve garbage treatment and garbage dumping sites, according to a statement Friday by the Environment Department director of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Saleh Sharara. The project will utilise environment-friendly technology. Mr. Sharara added, Mr. Sharara said he was informed about the Japanese contribution Thursday during a meeting with the second secretary at the Japanese embassy here. He said his department approached the Japanese government officially a few years ago seeking support to improve the garbage disposal problem in Jordan. Tokyo sent an expert team to inspect the dumping sites in Jordan and assess what would be required to improve the situation. Mr. Sharara said the project will be conducted under the joint supervision of Japanese and Jordanian experts, and added that on-the-job-training for local cadres will also be provided.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>JERASH FESTIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lucnica Folklore Group of Slovakia at the Forum at 7:30 p.m. * Concert by Kazem Al Sahir of Iraq at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m. * Concert by the University of Jordan Group at the Sound and Light Theatre at 9:00 p.m. * Concert by St. Peter Freienstein of Austria at Artemis Steps at 9:00 p.m. * Children's play entitled "The Strange Visitor" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m. * Recital of short stories by Caty Tu'meh at Gracia Theatre on Friday at 7:45 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-7:45 p.m.) * Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30 p.m. <p>LECTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Russian Position in Bosnia — Fact and History" by Salam Mufaser at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m. <p>EXHIBITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens. * Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) |
|---|--|

More clashes reported in Chechenya but tension easing

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Three Russian soldiers were wounded in overnight attacks by Chechen rebels, but Russian officials said Friday tension was easing in the breakaway region after Sunday's military agreement.

Interfax News Agency quoted a Russian military official in the region capital Grozny as saying small rebel groups had attacked army posts at least 15 times during the night.

But he said the attacks, which followed a televised appeal by Russian President Boris Yeltsin for rebels to comply with the July 30 military deal, were less intensive than before.

The official added that major fighting had ceased after Moscow and separatist rebels hammered out the agreement aimed at ending the seven-month conflict. "There have been no active military actions in the last 24 hours," he said.

Rebel military commanders say they are not involved in the latest attacks on Russian forces, which they blame on guerrillas outside their control.

Under the accord, the rebels agreed to lay down most of their arms in exchange for

withdrawal of most Russian troops from Chechenya.

Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops last December into Chechenya to quell its three-year independence bid, has agreed to scale its forces down to two 1,000-strong brigades.

Mr. Yeltsin, back on the political stage after a mild heart attack last month, threw his weight behind the military deal in his speech Thursday night.

"At present it is necessary to organise the disarmament of all illegal formations... This will become the basis for the withdrawal of Russian troops who have fulfilled their duties," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said peace would soon return to Chechenya. But he insisted the region would remain part of Russia.

Groups of separatist fighters who watched his television performance in Chechenya jeered throughout his speech.

Mr. Yeltsin also cautioned that there were forces inside and outside Chechenya who wanted the conflict to continue and stressed they must be curbed.

"The progress of further talks and processes of revival

of the Chechen Republic within the Russian Federation will largely depend on this," he said. Solutions had to be found based on the Russian constitution.

Mr. Yeltsin said the military deal was the first success of peace negotiations, which began in earnest after a Chechen rebel raid on the Russian town of Budennovsk in June.

Mr. Yeltsin said he would appoint a representative to Chechenya to push forward the peace process. He said the region should have its own political bodies and elect representatives to the Russian parliament.

The military accord did not cover the most difficult issue in peace talks — Chechenya's constitution status — and Mr. Yeltsin stands far short of rebel demands for independence.

Meanwhile a joint Russian Chechen team left Grozny Friday to look for missing Russian soldiers believed to be held by Chechen forces in the southeast mountains of the breakaway Caucasus republic.

The decision to send the search team came during a session of the Joint Military Commission set up under a

breakthrough agreement signed last month to end hostilities.

The team was headed by Vladimir Ivanov, a senior member of the Russian delegation at the military talks and Hussein Iskhanov, a senior Chechen field commander.

"We have information on all our people. There are about 300 missing in all," Mr. Ivanov told anxious Russian mothers of missing soldiers outside the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe which is hosting the talks.

"This time we will not bring anyone back. We just want to make sure they are alive and find out where they are," he said.

The Russian military was ready to provide a helicopter and go anywhere to find them, he said as one of the mothers broke down in tears.

Mr. Iskhanov said he knew of three Russians held in the village of Makhkheti.

Both sides were to provide full lists of the missing by Aug. 7, he added.

The Chechens estimated the number of their missing at 3,000 to 9,000. Mr. Iskhanov said, but names were still being added to the lists.

Hurricane blasts Florida for 2nd time

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Erin thrashed Florida a second time, ambushing thousands of terrified residents and tourists and causing widespread damage before losing its punch over Alabama.

Erin was downgraded to a tropical depression Friday morning after its sustained winds dropped below 40 mph (64 kph), down from the 94 mph (150 kph) winds that blasted the Florida panhandle, knocking out windows, damaging water lines and tossing boats like baseballs.

"We have trees down, we have transformers exploding on power poles," said John Teelin, a spokesman for Escambia County Emergency Management. "It's quite a show."

No injuries or deaths were reported. Erin killed at least two people and left five missing at sea when it hit central Florida early Wednesday.

Erin was moving northwest Friday over Mississippi, heading toward eastern Arkansas.

The storm brought rain and high winds to parts of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, downing some trees and power lines but causing no major damage, official said. Flash flood watches and wind advisories were in effect Friday most of Mississippi.

On Thursday, the hurricane-force winds and driving rain peeled back roofs at shopping centres, restaurants and apartment buildings across several panhandle counties. Hundreds of trees toppled and power lines went down faster than utility crews could keep up.

Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles requested a federal emergency declaration from President Bill Clinton to pave the way for disaster aid.

"We thank God that this storm did not pack the catastrophic punch that others have in the past," Mr. Clinton said in a statement promising federal help.

The Escambia County Sheriff's Department said 50 to 60 police cars would patrol the area overnight to guard against looting.

The centre of the storm moved ashore at about 10 a.m. in Pensacola, which had not been hit directly by a hurricane since one in September 1926 killed 372 people in Florida and Alabama.

State insurance officials projected insured losses as high as \$200 million.

State meteorologist Mike Rucker said many Florida coastal residents failed to take the hurricane warnings seriously and were caught by surprise.

Forecasters had predicted Wednesday night that the hurricane would most likely brush the Florida panhandle on its way to the Mississippi-Louisiana coast — not slam into it.

More than 10,000 people evacuated coastal areas near Pensacola, but Florida officials said only about 600 people had taken refuge overnight in shelters.

Mr. Teelin, of Escambia County Emergency Management, complained that county officials didn't have enough time to warn residents.

Officials at the National Hurricane Centre disputed that claim, saying a hurricane warning was posted for the Florida panhandle at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Nonetheless, many residents felt ambushed.

"Normally I would have loaded up and moved out, but they kept saying it was going to Louisiana," said 69-year-old Charles Clower.

Rusty Hilbert decided too late to move his wife, Fran, and five children, ages 16 months to 13, out of a motel in Fort Walton beach. His oldest children who wanted to see a hurricane were terrified and spent the next few hours jamming towels into the doors and windows to keep out the water.

"Most of their eyes are wide-eyed — not saying anything," said Mr. Hilbert, a sculptor from Abilene, Texas. "A waterspout or tornado went right over the hotel and that time they got a little serious about it."

Gulf Power Co. spokesman Steve Higgenbottom said 62 per cent of the Panhandle utility's customers — nearly a half million people — lost electricity Thursday. He said it could take a week to restore power to everyone.

Murayama aims for new start with cabinet reshuffle

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama Friday launched an attempt to revive his fragile coalition, agreeing to a cabinet shake-up and securing public works funding to stimulate the economy.

The embattled prime minister's efforts to recapture political momentum also included an unprecedented parliamentary protest against nuclear weapons testing by France and China.

Mr. Murayama has been under pressure to make a bold move to put his Socialist Party and 13-month-old government back on their feet after upper house elections last month that were seen as an unofficial vote of no-confidence.

On Friday, he agreed to a large-scale cabinet reshuffle, whose timing and extent were to be discussed at an emergency meeting that evening, according to one coalition leader.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, who heads the Sakigake Party, the smallest of the three coalition

partners, said both he and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Yohei Kono would stay in Mr. Murayama's cabinet.

However, Mr. Takemura did not say whether he and Mr. Kono would remain with their current portfolios, and added that he thought the reshuffle would likely be on a large scale.

"We were asked (by Mr. Murayama) to stay in the cabinet," Mr. Takemura said after a morning meeting of the three leaders.

He said he had replied that he would leave the decision to the prime minister, and that Mr. Kono, who is foreign minister, had acknowledged the request.

Also Friday, ministers approved a ceiling on the state budget for the next fiscal year, keeping overall spending tight while allowing growth in areas that will boost the economy.

The ceiling for general spending, the core of the state budget, for 1996/97 was kept down to 43.93 trillion yen (\$483 billion).

Bomber blows off arm, injures 2 in south China

HONG KONG (R) — A 19-year-old man set off a home-made bomb just outside the main train station in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou Friday, blowing off his arm and injuring two passers-by, a city official said.

Police and public security officials defused a second bomb before it could go off in the crowded square, some 50 metres from the main ticketing office, the official said by telephone from Guangzhou.

Two more crude bombs, each consisting of about 250 grams of explosive stuffed into a soft-drink can, were found in the man's luggage, the pro-Beijing New Evening Post newspaper in Hong Kong reported.

A middle-aged man and woman were injured in the blast, which occurred around 9:20 a.m. (0125 GMT) during the morning rush hour, the official said.

The bomber, identified only by his family name, Lau, came from Guangdong province and lived outside the Guangzhou City limits. Witnesses told police the youth ignited the bomb with a cigarette lighter.

Police said the bomber was carrying a bag of explosives and a lighter.

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Grant misses premiere to avoid bad publicity

LONDON (R) — British actor Hugh Grant missed the London premiere of his new film because he didn't want his appearance to generate "the wrong kind of publicity."

The handsome 34-year-old film star who made international headlines when Los Angeles Police caught him having sex in a car with a Hollywood prostitute flew to New York before the British opening of "The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill And Came Down A Mountain."

Grant donated £10,000 (\$16,000) to the leukaemia charity to make up for his absence which an aide attributed to last-minute business arrangements. But the actor admitted there were other reasons.

"If I had gone to the premiere, it might have totally wrecked the proceedings for reasons you must guess. And that's the last thing I wanted to do because it has come out very well," he said in an interview with the Guardian newspaper. "It certainly doesn't deserve the wrong kind of publicity and I'm afraid that at the moment I might have given it just that."

Grant's absence from the premiere was a blow to the film's marketing campaign, which had been building momentum since its release in the UK.

The film, which stars Grant as a man who falls in love with a woman who is a prostitute, is expected to be a major success.

Grant's decision to miss the premiere was seen as a sign of his maturity and his desire to avoid the negative publicity that surrounded his recent scandal.

The actor's absence was a significant blow to the film's marketing campaign, which had been building momentum since its release in the UK.

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India, Russia discuss cooperation

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Indian and Russian foreign ministers met here Friday for talks on international cooperation between the two countries currently working on several major weapons deals.

India's Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee met his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev for talks aimed at further cementing economic and political ties between the two countries.

Mr. Mukherjee, who met with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chornomyrdin on arrival late Thursday, was to discuss international issues, possibly including the war in Bosnia and the instability in the central Asian state of Tajikistan, the Indian embassy spokesman told AFP.

Arms sales, a major element of Indian-Russian relations, were not going to be discussed in detail, but "you might say in generalities," the spokesman said.

After his hour-long meeting with Mr. Chornomyrdin, Mr. Mukherjee said there had been a recommendation to boost economic cooperation and strengthen military and anti-terrorism ties, Russian news agencies said.

Trade between the two countries has grown by 44 per cent this year and is projected to total \$1.6 billion by the end of the year, the Indian embassy said.

Mr. Mukherjee will visit Saint Petersburg Saturday before leaving Russia the following day.

The driving force in relations between the two colossuses — Russia is geographically the biggest country in the world, India is the second most populated country — is a thriving arms trade that dates back from the Soviet era.

Eighty per cent of India's air force, 75 per cent of its navy and 40 per cent of its land forces is armed with Soviet, or Russian-made material, the respected Moscow daily Sevodnya reported Friday.

The relationship was given a major boost in December last year when Mr. Chornomyrdin visited India and signed a long-term military cooperation agreement.

In one of the latest deals, Russia delivered 10 MiG-29 warplanes as part of \$830 million credit agreed to in 1992.

Now, India is hoping to get a Russian licence to manufacture Sukhoi-30 jet bombers and there is a plan for Russian help to build a lightwater nuclear reactor.

Last month the Russian business daily Kommersant said Indian Defence Ministry officials were also considering the purchase of a Russian aircraft carrier, the cruiser Admiral Gorskov.

The technical and military supplies make Russia a significant factor in India's power struggle with its neighbour Pakistan.

There have been rumours that Moscow now plans to sell Pakistan war jets too.

Pyongyang again warns Seoul over arrest of pro-unification activist's widow

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Friday issued a thinly veiled warning that it would refuse any dialogue overtures from South Korea unless it releases the arrested widow of a pro-unification activist.

"By arresting the presbyter, Park Yong-Gil, on the charge of visiting the North, they totally denied dialogue and deprived themselves of the right to talk about dialogue," Pyongyang said in a statement.

"If they prosecute Park Yong-Gil despite our warning, their act will have an irrevocable effect on North-South relations," the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland said in the statement.

Upon crossing into the South Monday at Panmunjom, the only land crossing point on the fortified border.

the 76-year-old Mrs. Park was arrested for visiting the Communist North without approval in violation of the National Security Law.

She followed in the steps of her husband, Protestant pastor Moon Il-Hwan, who was jailed for the same offence in 1989.

Rev. Moon, who led pro-democracy struggles in the 1970s and 1980s and died in late 1993, became close to the deceased North Korean President Kim Il-Sung during his visit to Pyongyang.

During her month-long stay in Pyongyang, Mrs. Park received a hero's welcome and met with Kim Il-Sung's son and designated successor Kim Jong-Il.

Pyongyang said that the South, while calling for dialogue with the North, had "incriminated" the person

who visited the dialogue partner. "Their behaviour is self-contradictory and unacceptable to anybody," it said.

The arrest came as South Korean President Kim Young-Sam hinted in interviews that he was preparing to announce on Aug. 15 an initiative — possibly a summit proposal — in relation to North-South relations.

Inter-Korean ties had been warming after a U.S.-North Korea accord on freezing the North's controversial nuclear programme and the South's gift of 150,000 tonnes of free rice aid to the North.

It also came as the North repeated its annual call for a grand rally at Panmunjom to mark Aug. 15, the anniversary of the liberation of the Korean peninsula from Japanese colonial rule.

The centre of the storm moved ashore at about 10 a.m. in Pensacola, which had not been hit directly by a hurricane since one in September 1926 killed 372 people in Florida and Alabama.

State insurance officials projected insured losses as high as \$200 million.

State meteorologist Mike Rucker said many Florida coastal residents failed to take the hurricane warnings seriously and were caught by surprise.

Forecasters had predicted Wednesday night that the hurricane would most likely brush the Florida panhandle on its way to the Mississippi-Louisiana coast — not slam into it.

More than 10,000 people evacuated coastal areas near Pensacola, but Florida officials said only about 600 people had taken refuge overnight in shelters.

Mr. Teelin, of Escambia County Emergency Management, complained that county officials didn't have enough time to warn residents.

Officials at the National Hurricane Centre disputed that claim, saying a hurricane warning was posted for the Florida panhandle at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Nonetheless, many residents felt ambushed.

"Normally I would have loaded up and moved out, but they kept saying it was going to Louisiana," said 69-year-old Charles Clower.

Rusty Hilbert decided too late to move his wife, Fran, and five children, ages 16 months to 13, out of a motel in Fort Walton beach. His oldest children who wanted to see a hurricane were terrified and spent the next few hours jamming towels into the doors and windows to keep out the water.

"Most of their eyes are wide-eyed — not saying anything," said Mr. Hilbert, a sculptor from Abilene, Texas. "A waterspout or tornado went right over the hotel and that time they got a little serious about it."

Gulf Power Co. spokesman Steve Higgenbottom said 62 per cent of the Panhandle utility's customers — nearly a half million people — lost electricity Thursday. He said it could take a week to restore power to everyone.

S. Korea minister quits over remark

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam accepted Friday the resignation of a cabinet minister who caused a political storm by referring to the alleged possession of an illicit fund by a former president.

"President Kim accepted the resignation of Government Administration Minister Seo Seok-Jai who offered to quit to take responsibility for his remarks," a spokesman for Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo said.

The spokesman said Mr. Seo's successor would be named after Mr. Kim returns at the weekend from a holiday.

Quoting Mr. Seo, the na-

tion's leading daily Chosun Ilbo reported Thursday a former president was holding about 400 billion won (\$526.32 million) in bank accounts under false or borrowed names, which the government outlawed two years ago.

The daily also quoted Mr. Seo as saying an aide to the ex-president had secretly asked for "special treatment" from the government in converting the money into "real name" accounts.

The daily quoted Mr. Seo as saying the ex-president was either Chun Doo-Hwan or Roh Tae-Woo.

Both Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun denied possessing such

funds, and the newspaper report prompted opposition parties to demand an official probe.

Mr. Seo's aides said the minister was quoted out of context and he had just conveyed rumours circulating on the Seoul Bourse without conviction.

"Minister Seo said his remarks were completely distorted by the Chosun Ilbo," Kim Ho-Yung, Mr. Seo's secretary, told Reuters shortly before the resignation was accepted.

"Former President Roh has nothing to do with this (the report)," Mr. Roh's aide Park Young-Hoon told reporters Friday.

Campaign treasurer: Colombian president approved drug cartel's election gift

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's highest-reaching drug corruption scandal threatened to topple the president himself with explosive testimony that he approved a \$6.1 million contribution by the Cali drug cartel to his 1994 election campaign.

Senate Vice President Jose Gomez of the opposition Conservative Party called on President Ernesto Samper to step down, saying Conservative members of Mr. Samper's coalition government planned to resign within two weeks.

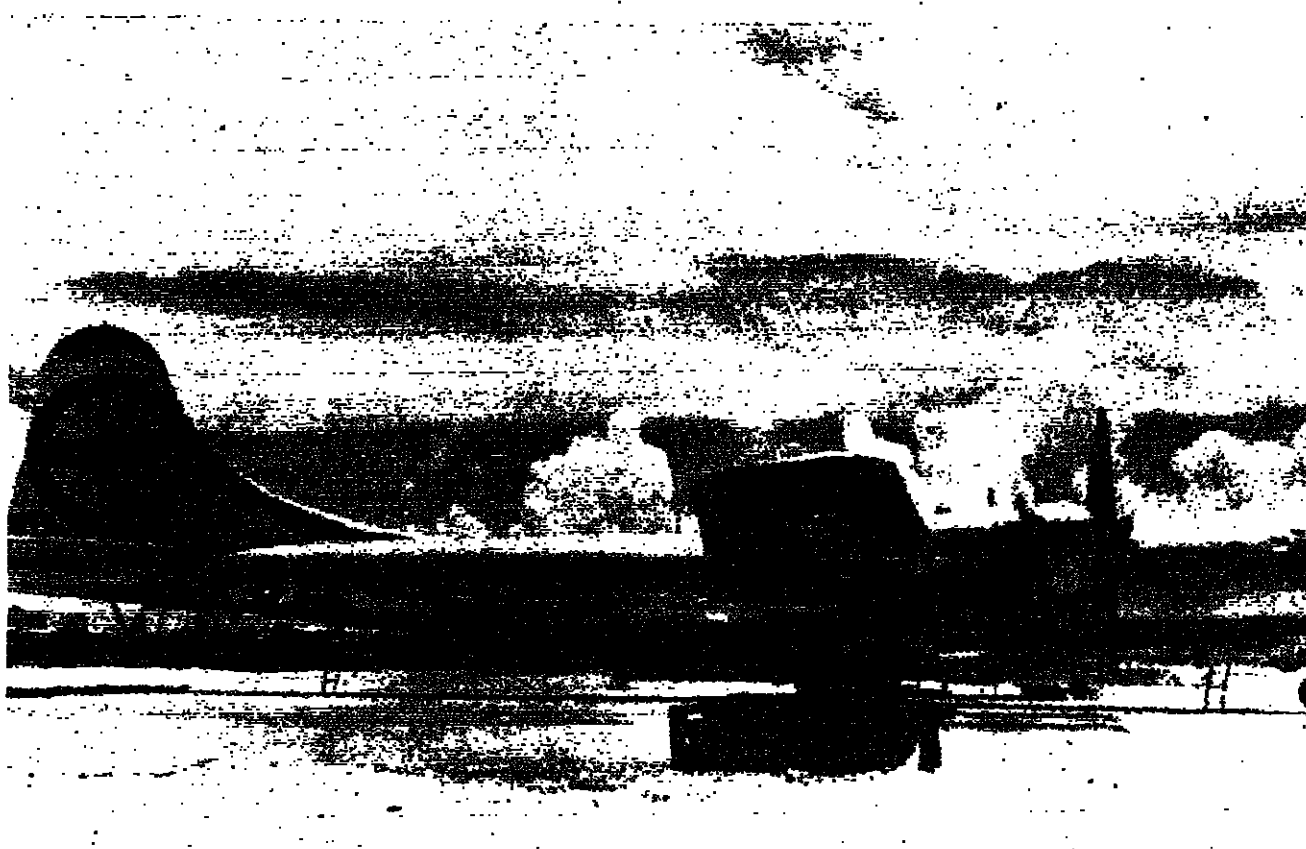
Mr. Samper didn't immediately react to the charges by Santiago Medina, Mr. Samper's campaign treasurer, which were published Thursday in the newspaper El Tiempo. The prosecutor general's office, which heard Mr. Medina testify, confirmed the transcript's authenticity.

Mr. Samper has denied any knowledge his campaign took drug money.

On Wednesday, Defence Minister Fernando Botero, who was Mr. Samper's campaign director, quit the government amid accusations he brought Cali drug cartel funds into Mr. Samper's election campaign. Mr. Samper barely won the June 1994 election.

NDON (R) — Hugh Grant missed the premiere of his movie "The English Patient" because he didn't want to appear in a "wrong kind of publicity." The handsome 34-year-old actor, who made headlines when he was caught in a car with a Hollywood prostitute in New York before the film's release, said he was "not a fan of the media." He said he was "not a fan of the media" and that he was "not a fan of the media." He said he was "not a fan of the media" and that he was "not a fan of the media."

World News



This file photo shows the U.S. strategic bomber B-29 "Enola Gay," which dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan on Aug. 6, 1945 (AFP photo)

Hiroshima mayor apologises for war atrocities

HIROSHIMA, Japan (Agencies) — Hiroshima's Mayor Takashi Hiraoka said Friday that commemoration events for victims of the atomic bomb should also be used to apologise for Japanese atrocities in Asia during World War II.

Mr. Hiraoka, 68, has already offered apologies for suffering throughout Asia caused by Japan's aggression during the war, but the mayor said commemorating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bomb drop on his city on Aug. 6 was also a chance to "look back in history."

"I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for what Japan did in the colonisation of other Asian-Pacific countries and also for war atrocities committed," he said at a press conference.

Mr. Hiraoka, who has served as mayor for five years in the city which lost 140,000 citizens in the blast and its aftermath, said the bombing should not be "used as an excuse of the criminal act of Japan" during the war.

"On the Japanese side, we must reflect more seriously what we did during war time," the former journalist said, as scores of people filed through the nearby Peace Park memorial which marks the spot where the atomic bomb was dropped.

They placed flowers or garlands of multicoloured paper cranes, one of the most cherished symbols in Japan, at the memorial. After a low bow, they clapped their hands to alert the souls of the dead.

During his term of office, Mr. Hiraoka has added a wing to the city's museum which, for the first time, illustrates the military past of Hiroshima, which was a garrison, naval dockyard and one of two headquarters for the imperial army.

However, his determination to show both the aggressor and victim has not extended to invitations to U.S. officials. "If they wish to come they are welcome," said Mr. Hiraoka. But none will be present Sunday, the anniversary of the bombing.

Mr. Hiraoka has campaigned for the abolition of nuclear weapons and plans to renew his message in a "peace declaration" Sunday. The message will also call for a halt to all nuclear tests.

He has already sent a letter to French President Jacques Chirac to protest the resumption of tests in the South Pacific.

The mayor believes that Hiroshima is also launching a message of hope to the world from survivors of the nuclear holocaust. They have rebuilt a prosperous city, one of the world's most modern, and "recovered their dignity as human beings which had been wiped out by the atomic bomb," he said.

Thousands of Koreans died alongside Japanese in the atom-bombing of Hiroshima, but many survivors and families of those killed feel excluded from annual tributes to bomb victims.

That's especially true this year, the 50th anniversary of the bombing, when tens of thousands of ordinary citizens and dignitaries from all over the world are converging on Hiroshima.

South Koreans were holding a separate ceremony Saturday, the day before the

main commemorations.

Many Koreans still have bitter memories of the 35 years of brutal Japanese colonial rule, which ended with the end of World War II.

Historians estimate that between 70,000 and 100,000 Koreans, mainly forced labourers, were caught in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Between 30,000 and 50,000 of them were killed.

On the day of the bombing, park Kyu-Mok, now 78, was digging a military bunker in a mountain near Hiroshima. He has just taken off his shirt when the bomb was dropped.

He suffered severe burns all over his body, and his left hand was left severely deformed.

"Since then, I have lived through all kinds of turmoil. I feel embittered when I look back on my poverty-stricken life and the cold public attitude," he said.

After the war, the city of Hiroshima created a park near what was the centre of the blast, and built a memorial to all victims of the bombing.

Korean survivors and their advocates felt that Korean victims needed their own monument, especially since so many had been brought forcibly to work on foreign soil. But they were not allowed to erect a monument inside the park itself.

In 1970, the Japanese government allowed the Korean bomb survivors to build a monument about 100 metres outside the park. The 3-metre-high (10-foot-high) marker is made of black granite brought from South

Korea.

The Koreans want their monument moved inside the park. So far that hasn't happened — at least partly due to infighting by North and South Koreans.

City officials said in 1990 that the Koreans could move their monument into the park, but only if it represents victims from both Koreas. North Koreans in Japan say the script on the current monument contains South Korean phrasing and insist it must be changed or they want a separate monument.

The Korean monument has been scorched three times by unknown vandals.

Like many Korean survivors, Park returned to his homeland after the war. He has spent the years since then living off a tiny government pension in the southern South Korean city of Hyeonchun.

"Hyeonchun is known as 'Korea's Hiroshima' because it is home to about a quarter of the 2,350 Korean atomic-bombing victims who live in South Korea. Most of them, in their 60s and 70s, are poor and sick."

About 200 people were expected to attend a ceremony in the town hall at Hyeonchun Saturday.

When the bomb exploded, Kang Moon-Hee, 76, was a construction worker at a ship-building facility about three kilometres from the centre of the blast. He suffered only minor burns, but still mourns his Korean compatriots.

"I hope by the time my name is listed on the Korean roster, the nation is reunified and the monument stands inside the Park," he said.

placed by a non-parachute regiment, also about 550 strong, but there are no current plans to bring more of the crack infantrymen into Northern Ireland, he said.

"But there is nothing sinister about this. Not is there any link between the anniversary of the ceasefire and the departure. They arrived in August 1993 and it is time for them to go."

The paras with their distinctive red berets stand out from other infantry soldiers for their high entry requirements and arduous physical training.

The tough regiment, embroiled in controversy from the Falklands to Kenya, has constantly met with hostility since being posted to Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

"The British government should take this opportunity to address the hurt this regiment has caused over the last 25 years... (and) initiate all-party peace talks so that we can set down to the pressing business of finding a permanent solution to this conflict," said Sinn Fein Chairman Mitchell McLaughlin.

In 1993, a platoon smashed up the town of Coalisland after a parachute soldier had his legs blown off by an IRA landmine. Six men were charged with assault.

The army spokesman would not say when the paras, a presence in Northern Ireland since the fighting began, would go but that the withdrawal had been planned before the Cess controversy.

"We're aware that certain papers are reading more into it but this is a routine movement," he said. Security sources said the pullout was expected "some time in the next few weeks."

U.K. withdrawing paratroopers from N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Britain announced Friday it is withdrawing a tough paratrooper regiment from Northern Ireland, closing a controversial chapter that began with bloody shootings in 1972 and ends as the province celebrates a year of peace.

Britain insisted the withdrawal was routine, amid a current impasse in peace moves over demands that IRA guerrillas scrap weapons to consolidate a ceasefire.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), welcomed the pullout of "this notorious regiment" but said the number of troops in the province would not actually fall. Nor would it bring Belfast any closer to a permanent peace.

Irish nationalists who oppose British rule have loathed the paras since 1972 when its soldiers were involved in the shooting of 13

civilians in Londonderry on so-called bloody Sunday.

Most recently, paratrooper Lee Clegg caused fresh outrage in the British province when released from jail after killing a teenage woman at a Belfast checkpoint that was halting joyriders.

His parole unleashed the worst tensions in Northern Ireland since a fragile peace descended last Sept. 1 after the IRA halted its 25-year war to end British rule. No concrete agreements on the province's future have yet emerged, raising fears of a return to violence should the anniversary pass without any breakthrough on all-party talks.

"The parachute regiment has done its two-year term and they are on the move," an army spokesman said Friday.

The "paras" will be re-

placed by a non-parachute regiment, also about 550 strong, but there are no current plans to bring more of the crack infantrymen into Northern Ireland, he said.

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The tough regiment, embroiled in controversy from the Falklands to Kenya, has constantly met with hostility since being posted to Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

"The British government should take this opportunity to address the hurt this regiment has caused over the last 25 years... (and) initiate all-party peace talks so that we can set down to the pressing business of finding a permanent solution to this conflict," said Sinn Fein Chairman Mitchell McLaughlin.

In 1993, a platoon smashed up the town of Coalisland after a parachute soldier had his legs blown off by an IRA landmine. Six men were charged with assault.

The army spokesman would not say when the paras, a presence in Northern Ireland since the fighting began, would go but that the withdrawal had been planned before the Cess controversy.

"We're aware that certain papers are reading more into it but this is a routine movement," he said. Security sources said the pullout was expected "some time in the next few weeks."

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Kashmir separatists appeal for hostages' release

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — A leading Kashmiri separatist group appealed to militants Friday to immediately release five Westerners held hostage in the Himalayan region for a month.

Mohammad Shafi Misgar of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said during Friday prayers at Srinagar's Hazratbal Shrine that the abduction of the tourists by Al Faran militants was against the teaching of Islam.

Mr. Misgar appealed to the shadowy Al Faran holding the tourists, saying the abductions had a negative impact on the five-year-old rebellion against New Delhi.

Whatever be the factors

behind the kidnappings of the hostages, its negative impact on our movement cannot be ignored," Mr. Misgar said during the prayers.

"We, therefore, appeal to the kidnappers in the name of humanity, and in these days when we are celebrating the birthday of Prophet Mohammad, to release the Western tourists unharmed immediately," he said.

"If they are not released on the occasion of Prophet's birthday, it will be construed as going against the teachings of the Holy Prophet," he said.

Muslims in the troubled Kashmir Valley will celebrate the Prophet's birthday on Aug. 10.

Two Britons, one Amer-

ican, one German and a Norwegian were abducted in early July by Al Faran while on trekking holidays near Pahalgam, 90 kilometres from Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

Earlier the All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, which groups some 30 Kashmiri religious, social and political parties, had condemned the abductions and appealed for the release of the hostages.

Meanwhile a notorious guerrilla commander in Indian-held Kashmir, Mat Gul threatened Friday to take his war against India to Bombay and New Delhi.

Famous for his involvement in a fiery three-day battle with Indian police in

the Kashmiri pilgrimage town of Charar-i-Sharif last May, Mr. Gul labelled the five-year-old uprising in Indian Kashmir of Jihad or holy war.

Mr. Gul told the Islamabad rally he was in Pakistan to recruit fighters.

"If you are not fighting, you are not a Muslim," said Mr. Gul, a Pakistani nationalist, who also fought in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation.

"We need manpower not resolutions and conferences," he said. "We need money and arms. It is a Jihad (holy war)."

About 12,000 men sat through a monsoon downpour while Mr. Gul railed against both India and Pakistan.

Sri Lankan peace proposals 'will not stop' resistance to rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — President Chandrika Kumaratunga vowed Friday to press ahead with her political plan to end Sri Lanka's ethnic bloodshed but said separatist rebels were unlikely to accept it and would have to be defeated.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said she expected the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to reject the plan for regional autonomy unveiled Thursday and ruled out negotiating with the guerrillas.

"Logically thinking, I don't see how they will accept (the proposals) unless they are militarily weakened," she said. "We are not going to discuss with rebels who are warring with our soldiers."

She said the Tigers had already rejected foreign or international mediation to bring about a settlement.

"We can win the battle militarily. But unless we have a political solution we can't win the war," Mrs. Kumaratunga said, adding that a "vociferous minority" opposed a political settlement because they wanted war to continue.

The peace package would give extensive autonomy to eight regions, including areas where Tamils dominate. The plan requires a two-thirds majority in parliament and approval at a referendum.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said she hoped the package would be part of the Sri Lankan constitution "within several months" and hoped the rebels would be defeated by then to allow the restoration of civil administration in the embattled northeast, where the rebels run a de facto separate government.

"We will continue the military offensive as long as the LTTE does not agree to

substantially lay down arms and stop the war, not temporarily but permanently," Mrs. Kumaratunga said.

She expected "majority consensus" for the reforms and hoped the main opposition United National Party (UNP) would back the initiative to end the ethnic bloodletting, which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The UNP said it needed more time to study the plan.

"Whatever the opposition, we do not intend to tear up these proposals," said Mrs. Kumaratunga. "This is not a stubborn view held by me or my government... This is to satisfy the aspirations of the people."

The influential Sinhala Buddhist clergy and radicals on both sides of the ethnic divide have rejected the plan, calling it a sell-out to the other side.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said she was unaware of a demand by cabinet minister S. Thondaman that the north-east region should be handed over to the rebels for a five-year period as part of a political settlement. The demand goes against government policy.

Mr. Thondaman said he gave a copy to Mrs. Kumaratunga but had not received a reply.

The government had attempted to discuss peace proposals with the LTTE but the militant group pulled out of six months of talks and went back to fighting on April 19.

"The LTTE has chosen the barrel of a gun to communicate," Mrs. Kumaratunga said, adding she was horrified to see the bodies of hundreds of Tamil youngsters killed during an abortive attack against an army camp last week.

"I do not know how an organisation which proclaims to protect the people could expose the children to war," she said, referring to the rebels' assault on the army camp using child-fighters.

She said the military had the upper hand in the campaign against the rebels although the Tigers gained "spectacular advantages" by deploying suicide bombers against security forces.

Three soldiers were killed and 20 more wounded when troops launched a "limited offensive" against Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka Friday, the military said.

The body of a rebel was recovered with a weapon during the offensive, but the military said guerrilla radio transmissions monitored by troops indicated that there were more casualties.

About 1,000 soldiers supported by artillery, air force and the navy launched the offensive at dawn from Alaveddi village in northern Jaffna peninsula, a military statement said.

The soldiers overcame rebel resistance and advanced to Chunnakam village, a distance of about two kilometres. The military said the operation was still in progress.

In the past, the military has advanced from its defence lines to clear regions ahead and return to camp in similar "limited offensive."

The offensive was held about 310 kilometres (194 miles) north of the capital, Colombo.

Mrs. Kumaratunga Friday accused the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of making false claims that the air force killed 65 people at a Roman Catholic Church.

Mrs. Kumaratunga told re-

porters here the ICRC statement blaming the air force for bombing the St. Peter's Church of Naval in the northern Jaffna peninsula had been rejected by the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Sri Lanka.

"It is regrettable that the ICRC has hastily issued a statement," she said. "They have issued a false statement. It must have been a silent bomb or a false bomb."

"The ICRC says all kinds of things. But the Archbishop (Nicholas Marcus Fernando) told me that the casualties are less than the figure of 65 (killed) bandied about."

The church compound had most probably been hit by a mortar fired by security forces or the Tamil guerrillas who had a gun position behind the church, she said at her first press conference since the incident.

In its statement last month, the ICRC said that 65 people were killed and 150 wounded in an air strike during a major military campaign against the Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the region.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's latest outburst against the ICRC added to the mounting tension between the international aid agency and the Sri Lankan government over the Tamil separatist war.

The ICRC operates in Sri Lanka under an agreement signed with the previous government.

Sri Lanka's influential Buddhist clergy has demanded the expulsion of the ICRC saying that they supported Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

The head of the ICRC delegation here, Marco Altherr, has already expressed regret over the statement when he was summoned by Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar last month.

Christopher relives past, looks to Cambodian future

PHNOM PENH, (Agencies) — Warren Christopher Friday became the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Cambodia in four decades on a trip that aimed to overcome America's bitter war legacy in South East Asia.

He toured the grisly prison where the Communist Khmer Rouge tortured thousands of Cambodians during the mid-1970s and waded into the country's press freedom controversy, telling officials "don't lash out at journalists who criticise you," U.S. spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

Mr. Christopher also promised the government he would urge the U.S. Senate to pass most favourable trade benefits for Cambodia.

However, he said to achieve generalised system of preferences benefits, which lowers tariffs on imports, Cambodia had to have free labour unions, Mr. Burns told reporters.

In a statement on arrival from Malaysia, Mr. Christopher hailed Cambodia's fledgling democracy and the United Nations peacekeeping mission that helped bring it about, one of the few recent successes for the embattled international body.

"I am here to salute the progress the Cambodian people have made, with dignity and courage, toward peace and freedom. I am here to underscore the commitment of the United States to support the democratic path you have chosen. And I am here to urge you to consolidate the

institutions of democracy as you prepare for your next round of elections," he said.

But Mr. Christopher stressed that "the survival of Cambodian democracy cannot be taken for granted" and urged that the international community go beyond the massive humanitarian investment it has made in Cambodia over the past decade.

He promised Cambodia 12,000 tonnes of rice worth \$5.4 million to meet urgent needs.

The United States bombed Cambodia in the early 1970s during the Vietnam War but officials said this history was not raised in Mr. Christopher's meetings.

The country also has been scarred by one million deaths when it ruled Cambodia in 1975-1978, as well as 20 years of civil war.

A U.S.-backed peace agreement signed in 1991 led to U.N.-sponsored elections in 1993 and the current government in which leaders of the two non-Communist factions, Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, serve as co-prime ministers.

Fighting continues between the government and the Khmer Rouge but U.S. officials said the guerrillas have no more than 10,000 members and are "a minimal threat to overall stability."

Mr. Christopher held talks with the two prime ministers and was to have dinner with King Norodom Sihanouk. His lunch guests were government opposition figures

and critics.

Acknowledging the legacy of the war he visited a project — partially funded by the United States — that trains Cambodians in defusing an estimated eight million landmines in Cambodia.

Mr. Christopher also toured the former Khmer Rouge prison, remarking afterwards: "Man's inhumanity to man. It's hard to conceive the whole country turned on itself."

As with Vietnam, where Americans lost a humiliating war and which he visited Saturday, Mr. Christopher aims to strike a balance between honouring the past and looking to the future.

Asia, especially Vietnam, is a vibrant new business opportunity.

Human Rights Watch/Asia, the international advocacy group, said in a recent report that while the Khmer Rouge is a major human rights violator, the government is also guilty of abuses.

U.S. officials say the situation in Cambodia is undoubtedly much better than previously but Mr. Christopher urged the government to keep working on the problem.

Cambodia's first prime minister Friday told Mr. Christopher that Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot could participate in the 1998 elections if the guerrillas stopped fighting.

The announcement marks a major departure from previous statements about the infamous rebel whose follow-

ers are blamed for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during their reign from 1975 to 1979.

"If the Khmer Rouge laid down their arms, we would welcome them," Prince Norodom Ranariddh, told Mr. Christopher, according to U.S. State Department spokesman.

"If Pol Pot wants, he can come and lay down his arms, and say that he has changed, and run in the elections," Mr. Burns quoted the prince as saying.

The next national elections in Cambodia are scheduled to be held in 1998 and government officials in the past have made it clear that if the Khmer Rouge would give up fighting, some of their leaders would be allowed to stand.

The invitation however has never before been extended to Pol Pot and his closest associates.

Mr. Burns did not say whether Mr. Christopher had responded to the statement, but the secretary of state in a later tour of a museum dedicated to the victims of Pol Pot's oppression appeared moved and called the years of Khmer Rouge rule "horrible."

Mr. Burns said Mr. Christopher was told by a survivor of the radical Maoist regime that only three words describe those years: "hunger, fear and suffering."

The U.S. is currently funding an investigation into the Cambodian genocide that is being conducted by Yale University.

Christopher seeks probe into officers' arrest in China

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher has demanded an investigation into why two U.S. Air Force officers arrested and expelled by China this week were sent there at all, The New York Times reported Friday.

The Times, quoting senior U.S. administration officials, said Mr. Christopher had complained in telephone calls to Washington from Asia where he is currently travelling about the Pentagon's decision to send the two officers to China.

The report said Mr. Christopher had argued that sending the two officers to China "put in peril a carefully orchestrated effort to reopen a dialogue with the Chinese and win the quick release," of U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu.

"The timing was incredibly bad and someone should explain why," one official was quoted by the daily as saying.

The report said the arrest

of the two officers, both attached to the U.S. consulate in Hong Kong, had created a rift between the State Department and the Pentagon and reflected "disarray" in U.S. policy on China.

Several senior administration officials also speculated that the arrest of the two officers was evidence of increasing power among Chinese military hardliners within the country's leadership, the report said.

It said Western military attaches "routinely observe Chinese military sites" and suggested the arrest of the U.S. officers aimed to discredit the United States and derail talks between Mr. Christopher and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen.

China had said Colonel Joseph Wei Chan, the air force liaison officer at the U.S. consulate general in Hong Kong, and his deputy, Wayne Florenzie, were expelled after being caught in a restricted, military zone in

southeast China.

The U.S. Defence Department said Thursday that the two U.S. officers were on a mission authorised by Beijing, but stopped short of formally denying Beijing's charges the two men were spying.

Also Thursday, Mr. Christopher said in Kuala Lumpur that China's expulsion of the two officers would not derail attempts to get Sino-U.S. relations back on track.

"There is no reason why this incident should affect the forward momentum in our relations," Mr. Christopher said, hours after the two attaches returned to their base in Hong Kong from China.

Meanwhile, Beijing attacked Friday an essay in the latest issue of the U.S. magazine Time, blasting article's call for containment of China as revelation of an American plot to subvert China's Communist government.

"This strange essay is

strange in that it says through the mouth of a commentator things that some people in U.S. political circles want to say but are unwilling to say," the official People's Daily said in a commentary.

"It reveals a plot to 'contain' and even 'subvert' the legal Chinese government," the commentary said. "This is a confession of hegemonism and power politics."

The commentary reflected internal Chinese suspicions, especially among the military, that Washington is trying to contain China by opposing Beijing's entry to the World Trade Organisation and limiting its military modernisation by restricting technology transfers.

Chinese analysts say the military anxiety is an underlying factor in Beijing's fury at the United States for allowing President Lee Teng-hui to make a private visit in June, sending relations into a tailspin.

rt student
sell Lennon
artoons

NDON (R) — A 16-year-old student who swapped a flow sweater for a jacket of John Lennon's could receive \$20,000 (\$102,400) for the sale, Lennon's estate said. The student, a 16-year-old girl, had bought the sweater for \$50 with the former Beatle's name on it. She had been wearing it for several days at Liverpool College, where she is a student. The sweater was sold to a collector for \$20,000. The student said she was "very happy" to sell it. The sweater was a "very nice" one, she said. The student said she was "very happy" to sell it. The sweater was a "very nice" one, she said.

Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief:
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Editorial and advertising offices:
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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New bonds after Qatar

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Qatar for talks with Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah has to be seen as part and parcel of other visits that the King has made recently and will make soon to several Arab capitals in a bid to improve inter-Arab relations. The fact that it took place in the wake of the equally successful visit to Cairo for talks with President Hosni Mubarak reflects Jordan's concern to put Arab relations on a more positive and constructive path. Amman has for many years enjoyed the best of relations with Doha even in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis in 1990 when Arab relations became tense and troubled by the fallout from the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Obviously, the importance of the talks between King Hussein and the new Emir of Qatar transcends in significance the usual attempts to consolidate the already good relations between the two countries and clearly aims for a wider objective that affects the entire Arab Nation. The joint communique that was issued at the end of the visit gives clear expression to this comprehensive goal. On the bilateral level, the two countries have decided to establish a joint committee to be headed by the foreign ministers to develop further the strong relationship that exists between the two sides. On the level of peace in the Middle East, the two leaders insisted that only a comprehensive and just peace in the region could ensure permanent peace between Israel and the Arab World. There is a clear message to Israel in this agreement. The situation of Iraq, above all Iraq's unity and independence which must be safeguarded at all costs, was also addressed. On Islamic front, the Bosnian conflict was prominently addressed with a clear call for an effective ending of Serbian aggression against Bosnian Muslims and others.

It goes without saying that Qatar is an important Arab state in the Gulf region and can be instrumental in eliminating the residues of the Gulf war on the Arab level. Doha has been sensitive to the plight of the Iraqi people all along and continues to play a significant role in the rehabilitation of Iraq and its people into the Arab Nation. It has also shown better understanding of the Jordanian stance on Iraq throughout the past several years. The enlightened Qatari perspective on Arab and regional issues does not go by unappreciated by Amman. This country will continue therefore to pin great hopes on even stronger Qatari-Jordanian ties as a nucleus for broader and deeper Arab contacts that could serve the needs of the new era in the Arab history.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour cautioned Baghdad against defying Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. envoy responsible for ensuring Iraq's elimination of mass destruction weapons. The present confrontation, said Taher Al Adwan, is not between Iraq and the United Nations but rather between Baghdad and Washington; and defying Mr. Ekeus by saying that he has only until the end of August to submit his final report and end his mission would be employed by the United States as a pretext for perpetuating the sanctions on Iraq. Iraq is not in need of stirring a new crisis with the United States, which now stands isolated in the Security Council in its adamant stand with regard to the lifting of the embargo, said the writer. He said that all Iraq needs to do is to keep up the pressure on the United States through its own allies and through the other U.N. Security Council member nations in order to end the sanctions, suggested the writer. It will be a wise step on the part of the Iraqi government to maintain its diplomatic offensive at the world level, proving by word and deed that it has complied with all U.N. resolutions and deserves an end to the embargo clamped since 1990, said the writer. He said that Baghdad should not give Washington a pretext to maintain the sanctions and an excuse to further starve the Iraqi people.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed Jordanian relations with the Arab Gulf states in general and ties between Qatar and the Kingdom in particular in the light of His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Doha. The King's visit to Qatar, the second to the Gulf state since the Gulf crisis, constitutes another Jordanian move towards ending differences among the Arabs and reviving solidarity among their countries vis-a-vis the common challenges, said the paper. The King's visit is a show of support for the new Qatari leadership and its young ruler who is dedicated towards strengthening his country's relations with the rest of the Arab World, added the paper. The visit is also a renewed effort on the part of the Kingdom to seek collective Arab action vis-a-vis the issues confronting Arab states and to deal with the requirements of the peace era in the Middle East, according to the paper. It is true that the Qatari-Jordanian relations have always been marked by strong brotherly relations and close cooperation and understanding in various fields, but this visit in particular, added the paper, is seen not only as seeking even stronger ties but also as reflecting the Kingdom's serious endeavours to bolster inter-Arab ties and boost cooperation between Jordan and the Gulf states.

Jordanian Perspective

Hard work needed to lure investors

WE HAVE been hearing increased calls from international experts in recent days that Jordan should move fast and set the ground to attract foreign capital through, first, making the legislative climate in the Kingdom conducive to foreign investment.

We also heard that Jordan should launch a strong awareness campaign in the U.S. as well as in Europe and the Far East to inform potential investors there of business opportunities in the Kingdom.

The time has come to ask a serious question to all of us, whether in government, the legislature or any other walk of life: What have we done to set the climate right for international interest in Jordan? Are we naive to think that international capital would come to Jordan simply because those who have it love the Kingdom so much?

Obviously not. But that does not address the core problem, and that has more to do with our mindset than anything else.

It would seem that the awareness that Jordan is on the threshold of a new economic era after reaching peace with Israel and proving its firm commitment to the international principles of coexistence on the basis of mutual respect has only penetrated the minds of a few businessmen. Very few others, for all practical purposes, seem to appreciate the fact that there is indeed international interest in Jordan but it is largely up to Jordanians to translate that interest into tangible economic benefits for all concerned in an atmosphere of free market enterprise.

Instead what we see is procrastination on the part of some legislators who oppose "normalisation" of relations with Israel, apathy and lethargy on the part of most bureaucrats and a general indifference on the part of many businessmen.

Against this backdrop, the Jordanian, on the street has every right to be concerned. After all, it is clear what Jordan and its people face today could be a make-or-break opportunity, and if we fail to rise to the challenges of the day then the opportunity will slip away from our fingers.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, to be held in October, is indeed one of the key fora where Jordan could forward its ideas and establish firm contacts with people who matter in international business. But it is imperative that we have the right laws that offer the right incentives to capital and offer a reasonable structure of taxation and other regulations in place by the time the summit is convened.

Judging from the pace of things that we are seeing today, there is a lot of uncertainty over the fate of the draft laws on companies, investments and income tax. The draft laws have not even been discussed by Parliament, with three months to go before the MENA summit. We don't know where the delay is, but that is besides the point, simply because the most important thing is to have those laws, which are very crucial to create investment climate, debated, amended as our representatives find fit and enacted at the earliest possible date.

By Dr. Musa Keilani



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Hamas is a liberation movement that the U.S. should respect, not antagonise

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press last week focused on the arrest of a Hamas leader in the United States. The peace process, the situation in the occupied Palestinian lands, domestic affairs and the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

The arrest of Mousa Abu Marzuk contradicts Washington's claim that it is an unbiased sponsor of the Middle East peace process; and is something that should be condemned by Arab and Muslim nations, said Taher Al Adwan in Al Dustour. Stressing that the arrest and the possible extradition of the Hamas political leader to Israel are bound to undermine the peace process, the writer said that Hamas and Abu Marzuk represent a liberation movement like all others around the globe and are not terrorist groups whose actions are simply aimed at killing or harming innocent persons. Demanding that Abu Marzuk be immediately released, the writer said the Americans will be doing a great deal of harm to their relations with Arab and Muslim countries should they persist in their present stand.

Hamas is a political movement intent on liberating the occupied Arab territories and is following normal resistance activities to achieve that goal, said Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i. Abu Marzuk who has not carried any activity beyond the political sphere in his drive to promote the Palestinian cause abroad, is not a terrorist neither is he acting to harm the United States or any other country in the world, said the writer. His arrest, said the writer, is bound to lay further obstacles in the path of a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians at a time when the parties concerned with the peace process are struggling to achieve a lasting settlement. The writer said that the United States, which is sponsoring the peace process, should realise that Abu Marzuk's arrest is bound to heighten tension and ought to act in a manner that would be most conducive to attaining a peaceful settlement.

The arrest of Abu Marzuk in the United States should be considered as a hostile action against the Arab and Muslim nations, said Bassam Emoush a writer in Al Ra'i. Instead of opening a dialogue with the Hamas leader who can best present the Palestinian case to the outside world, Washington has chosen to arrest the man at a time when it claims it is giving momentum to the peace process, said the writer.

There can be no reason for the arrest except to appease the Jews and the Zionist lobby in America, which succumb to Israel's wishes and executes its orders, charged the writer, who is also a member of the Islamic Action Front Party and member of the Lower House of Parliament. Hamas is a resistance movement and not a terrorist group and its aims to seek the liberation of Palestine, added the writer. In his capacity as Hamas political leader, Abu Marzuk has committed no sin and has not violated any of the United States laws to justify his arrest, said the writer, who demanded the man's immediate release.

Even without extraditing Abu Marzuk to Israel, there can be no justification for his arrest in the United States, simply because the man has not committed any crime or violated any rules, said Yasser Zaareh, a columnist in Al Dustour. Indeed, the arrest can be interpreted as a provocation against the feelings of the Arabs and Muslims and violation of all norms and laws, said the writer. Saying that the arrest can serve no purpose for the United States or the American people, the writer advised the U.S. administration to reconsider its action and to regard Abu Marzuk as a political leader of a resistance movement like other movements which Washington has been claiming to be keen on safeguarding their rights to freedom.

Commenting on the recent escalation of Jewish settlers' activities in the occupied Arab lands, a writer in Al Ra'i said that the

settlers, who continue to build homes on Arab lands by force, are meeting with feeble resistance from the Israeli government and are not deterred by any laws or rules. Of course, the settlers want no expansion of the self-rule, which gives the Palestinians wider control of Palestinian lands and so they resort to actions that are bound to delay the implementation of agreements with the Palestinians under the Oslo deal, said Mahmoud Rimawi. It goes without saying that the Israeli government is capable of ending the settlers' illegal activities but it seems that the Rabin government is intent on perpetuating a situation in which settlers can continue their clashes with the police in order to justify the delay in implementing the second phase of the self-rule agreement, said the writer. Unless these settlers are checked, the peace process will remain hanging in the balance, he added.

The implementation of the next phase of the self-rule in Palestine means that the future of the 140,000 settlers living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip goes under scrutiny by the Palestinian and the Israeli negotiators, said Ali Safadi, a writer in Al Dustour daily. One sign of imminent developments in Palestine was an invitation by a cabinet minister, Shalomit Aloni, to the settlers to accept compensation for their homes in the settlements and voluntarily leave the Arab lands, said the writer. While the peace now movement continues to call for the dismantling of the settlements, the Israeli government has been complaining of the high cost of ensuring security for the settlements under a final agreement with the Palestinians, said the writer. Saying that the settlers are putting up stiff resistance to the idea leaving the West Bank, the writer said that they have been stirring trouble for the government, which, he said, should take firm action against such defiance which could ruin all chances for peace with the Palestinians.

Criticising the government for announcing rules to control the local labour market and doing nothing in practice to apply them, Mohammad Subeili, a writer in Al Dustour, said that a law that cannot be implemented is a dead law. The writer said that there is need for firm control over the situation since the foreign workers are found in great numbers and are practically taking the jobs of the Jordanian citizens and there is also need for cooperation with the concerned authorities on the part of the public and the employers. It is necessary for the government to deal promptly with the foreign workers issue and so help deal with unemployment in the Kingdom, said the writer.

A writer in Al Ra'i suggested that the government undertake a series of drastic measures to overhaul the educational system in Jordan. Calling for immediate action and copying the models of education in advanced nations, Khaled Al Saket said that the Ministry of Education should modernise educational administration, pump young blood into the process of reforming the system, increase allocations required for the introduction of modern technology and employ qualified people to handle this process.

A writer in Al Dustour expressed disappointment that the mayors, who have been recently elected, do not show any interest in assuming a political stand in addition to caring for municipal services. Fakhri Kassar said that the mayors ought to represent their own communities not only socially and in terms of municipal services but also politically as the voters had hoped. Citing the example of the mayor of Eilat in Israel, who, he said, declared his outright rejection of the "expansion of the Palestinian self-rule", the writer said that the mayors should try to reflect the feelings of their respective communities. The mayors, he added, ought to undertake action that can enhance the democratic process and reflect the public views in all matters of public concern.

West laments lost 'golden age' of Gulf war harmony

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

LONDON — When Iraq invaded Kuwait five years ago, it managed — unwittingly — to create something unique in modern history.

For a brief period following the end of the cold war, the United States and the Soviet Union enjoyed a "golden age" of cooperation that reached its climax during the Gulf crisis.

Praise flowed for a rejuvenated United Nations, no longer hobbled by superpower rivalry, and Western leaders celebrated the triumph of human rights and democracy over aggression.

In a remark that was to become famous just after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, U.S. president George Bush proclaimed: "Out of these troubled times... a new world order can emerge a new era, freer from the threat of terror, stronger in the pursuit of justice and more secure in the quest for peace."

Five years on, no one talks like that. Chaos and doubt have replaced certainty and hope.

The "line in the sand" drawn so clearly by the Allies in Kuwait has been all but erased in the mud of Bosnia and Chechnya, swamped by the bloodshed in Rwanda.

"We know now what everyone suspected at the time — that the Gulf crisis and the war that followed were exceptions in military and political terms, a brief fluke that could not be repeated," said one senior European diplomat.

That brief age of international cooperation in 1990 did bring some direct gains, including the start of a Middle East peace process that has borne fruit against all odds.

But the rest of the balance sheet looks fairly bleak.

President Boris Yeltsin's Russia has proven to be a far less cooperative partner for the West than president Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet Union.

Moscow asserts its independence now, resentful of being seen as a former superpower. Eastern European states fear that Russia may yet plunge back into a dictatorship and turmoil.

The United States, confident in leading the world against Iraq and flushed with its triumph over Communism, is uncertain of its global role and showing signs of isolationism that worry its Allies and undermine the NATO alliance.

The United Nations, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, is strapped for cash and stretched by a record number of peacekeeping operations around the world. Bosnia has taken away much of the U.N. and NATO's credibility.

While Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a clear case of one state invading another, messy ethnic conflicts in the post-cold war world have been much less easy to settle.

Arguments still rage over whether the war in Bosnia is a civil war or a war of aggression started by Serbs. Moscow insists the war in Chechnya is no one else's business, since the region is part of Russia and not an independent state.

In a world where borders fragment and new nations have emerged, the international community has been faced by difficult decisions about when to intervene.

For the first time, the United Nations tried to rebuild a nation by sending troops into Somalia. It failed disastrously. In Rwanda, the world stood by and watched as hundreds of thousands were butchered in a frenzy of ethnic hatred.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, the European Community was preparing what it hoped would be a new era of political and economic integration with the Maastricht Treaty.

Five years on, the European Union — as it is now called — has scaled down its ambitions in the face of popular opposition or apathy. Lofty visions are no longer welcome. The Europeans have been unable to take over the U.S. leadership role.

"The United Nations, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, is strapped for cash and stretched by a record number of peacekeeping operations around the world. Bosnia has taken away much of the U.N. and NATO's credibility."

The breakup of Yugoslavia and the wars that have followed since 1991 have poisoned all of the major European security organisations NATO, the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

They were not ready to deal with such a complex conflict in the heart of Europe, let alone to handle other wars fought on the fringes of the old Soviet empire, which have been largely ignored by the West.

No one has found new models of international cooperation or ways of dealing with conflicts that defy attempts to stop them with traditional peacekeeping methods.

By contrast, the Gulf war was a showcase for Western high-technology weaponry, the terrain flat and unobtrusive as a computer model, the enemy lines clearly laid out for the Allies.

Five years on, there is a lot of nostalgia around.

By Wendy Le

HOW ACCURATE can one assess support for the various political parties in the West Bank? When speaking of the Islamist opposition, for example, both academics and journalists seemed to pick figures of the air, with assumptions of Hamas support of 25 or 40 per cent of the population (or even some cases 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip). The dis's own political divisions may have had a bearing on the figures. The fact that they are hazardous such varied interpretations of the mood is due to the fact we have few reliable criteria for making an informed judgement. Before the U.S. invasion, the Hamas movement was primarily an underground movement, its members occupying territories, off-polls were published irregularly. The Hamas made a new of itself, with the Mideast conflict in the autumn of 1994.



Conflict

(Continued from page 1)

Although France's attack threatened to reignite the war, there were no direct military actions. The war was dominated by the UN's efforts to bring about a ceasefire. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 1033, which demanded that the warring parties cease hostilities and withdraw their forces from the conflict zone. The UN also established a peacekeeping mission in the region. The war ended in a ceasefire, but the underlying issues remained unresolved. The conflict had a significant impact on the region, with many lives lost and property destroyed. The UN's role in the conflict was crucial in bringing about a ceasefire and in providing humanitarian aid to the affected population.

The breakup of Yugoslavia and the wars that have followed since 1991 have poisoned all of the major European security organisations NATO, the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). They were not ready to deal with such a complex conflict in the heart of Europe, let alone to handle other wars fought on the fringes of the old Soviet empire, which have been largely ignored by the West. No one has found new models of international cooperation or ways of dealing with conflicts that defy attempts to stop them with traditional peacekeeping methods. By contrast, the Gulf war was a showcase for Western high-technology weaponry, the terrain flat and unobtrusive as a computer model, the enemy lines clearly laid out for the Allies. Five years on, there is a lot of nostalgia around.

Zagreb hit
Warning sirens sounded for a second time Friday in the Croatian capital Zagreb as a new one-hour attack was launched in the outskirts of the capital.
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Croatian radio announced earlier that a lone missile had

DAY, AUGUST 5, 1995
By Dr. Musa Khatib

Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1995

Assessing Palestinian public opinion

By Wendy Levitt

HOW ACCURATELY can one assess support for the various political forces in the West Bank and Gaza? When speaking of the Islamist opposition, for example, both academics and journalists have seemed to pluck figures out of the air, with assurances that Hamas could count on grassroots support of 15 or 25 or 40 per cent of the population (or even in some cases 50 per cent in the Gaza Strip). The pundits' own political persuasions may have had a major bearing on the figures. But the fact that they could hazard such varied interpretations of the public mood is due to the fact that we have few reliable criteria for making an informed judgement. We don't actually know.

business of political rallies (spontaneous, planned or a mixture of both) began to assume a "pro" or "anti" settlement character, translated on the ground into a Fateh-Hamas contest.

None of these methods of counting heads could ever be more than the roughest of guides to popular sentiment, not least because of the volatility of the public mood in response to political events. Alongside this, the particular characteristics of each election, poll or rally needed to be taken into account.

Since Oslo, opinion testing has increased in quantity and sophistication. In particular, Nablus boasts a serious scientific establishment, the Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies (CPRS), directed by Khalil Shikaki, which publishes detailed monthly reports on Palestinian views on a range of topics.

If the trend of the last few years was to inflate the Islamists' influence, the CPRS (and other institutions) have come up with many conclusions. In its 16th opinion poll in March

1995, the CPRS found that 49.4 per cent of Gazans and West Bankers supported Fateh (with 56.5 per cent backing Arafat personally as head of the Palestine National Authority), as opposed to 12.4 per cent for Hamas and 2.1 per cent for Islamic Jihad. Thirteen per cent were undecided; at all the smaller PLO factions fared badly, the highest score — under four per cent — going to the PFLP.

A poll one month earlier by the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme gave Fateh 33.4 per cent and Hamas 19.3, with 4.1 per cent for Jihad — figures closer to the traditional assessment. But the CPRS' findings have consistently over the months shown high ratings for Fateh and low one for Islamists. Itself surprised by its findings, the centre doubled its March sample in Hebron, supposedly a stronghold of the Islamist opposition. But there, Fateh scored its highest figure in any CPRS poll to date.

Accounting for Arafat's popularity
Dr. Shikaki attributes

the findings to a combination of factors since the start of the year up to March: no major blunders by the PNA, a decrease in settlement activity and a sense of optimism about prospects for elections and Israeli redeployment. The feel-good factor was deliberately fostered by the increasingly professional Palestinian radio station, while the local papers have remained quiescent since Mr. Arafat made it clear that he would brook no dissent.

Still, questions remain. How many people are likely to speak openly, given a traditional deference to authority — as well as an abundance of police of one sort or another in the areas of Palestinian self-rule (one for every 50 Gazans) and a continuing Israeli presence elsewhere? A senior CPRS researcher suggested that an extra five per cent should be added to Hamas' ratings on this count.

The need for such an adjustment was highlighted by the centre's poll published just before the August elections at Al Najah

University in June. The CPRS predicted a 42 per cent vote for Fateh and 33 per cent for a combined Islamic ticket. In the event each side won 39 seats, with the remaining three going to the Popular Front.

Other recent student elections have produced mixed results. At Bethlehem University, Fateh, running with the People's Party, won seven out of nine council seats. At Jerusalem University, a Hamas-Jihad coalition took all nine seats. At the former nationalist stronghold of Bir Zeit (where Fateh suffered a dramatic rout in November 1993 by an anti-Oslo alliance of the Islamists with the Popular and Democratic Fronts), Fateh campaigned vigorously, disassociating itself from the PNA, and won 21 council seats, against 18 for the Islamists (with the Popular Front in third place).

Although student elections are the most directly politicised of the various local elections in the West Bank and Gaza, there are nonetheless other factors at play: the organisation and intensity of the campaign,

the composition of coalitions, the charisma of candidates, and specific issues which do not relate to national politics. A question that also needs asking, however, is to what extent do students represent the rest of the population?

In other elections for professional and trade bodies, the specificity factor is even greater. Results cannot be ruled in or out as a blanket guide to feelings on the peace process and the political players. The circumstances of different elections reveal a rich tapestry of politicking and local concerns: not least, voting for the best man for the job, regardless of political orientation. If local elections are to be a guide to popular opinion, each has to be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Courting the don't-knows

Since the creation of the PNA, opinion polls have recorded a growing number of "don't know" (13 per cent in the CPRS poll in March 1995). This constituency is being won by a

spate of independent challengers seeking to establish new political groupings. Not less than nine political figures have set themselves up in opposition to Mr. Arafat in recent months.

The most impressive of these contenders is Haidar Abdul Shafi, former head of the Red Crescent in Gaza while the delegation during the Madrid process. In its February poll, the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme asked people for their preference as leader of the PNA; Abd Al Shafi managed only third place (although this was before he formally threw his hat into the ring with the formation of the Movement for Building Democracy). Behind Ahmad Yassin of Hamas with 19.3 and Mr. Arafat with 34.4.

Mr. Arafat also faces opposition within his own Fateh movement which has not thus far been quantified. This is both on the outside (led by Farouk Kaddoumi and others) and on the inside, where Marwan Barghout, head of Fateh on the West Bank, is stridently critical of the

PNA leadership. However, Mr. Arafat's immediate concern is with the Islamic opposition. Only if Hamas takes part in the national elections will its numerical strength be established, although it has demonstrated its ability to mobilise the masses in opposition to the PNA.

Perhaps, the long awaited elections will unlock the key to a better understanding of Palestinian public opinion. But one constituency whose voice will not be heard is that of the diaspora outside. Disenchantment and a sense of betrayal at Mr. Arafat's Oslo deal with its slender rewards will go unrecorded. One unlikely outcome of the Palestinians' tragically fragmented history, and its impact on their attitude, is the prospect of Hamas preparing itself for power-sharing with the PNA while one-time Arafat loyalists, dispersed throughout the region and beyond, continue to wait for the return of Jaffa and Haifa.

Middle East International



Croat and Serb delegations to the Geneva talks broke down Friday following Croat advance towards the Serb rebels capital of Knin (AFP photo)

Conflict threatens all-out war

(Continued from page 1)

by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army — captured a third of Croatia's land, most of it in the boomerang-shaped Krajina region curving around the northern border of Bosnia.

An uneasy truce had held since January 1992. Last May, Croatian troops recaptured the most weakly defended chunk of Serb-held land in central Croatia in a two-day blitz. The Serbs rocketed Zagreb in retaliation, killing seven people and wounding almost 200.

Although Friday's attack threatened to reignite all-out war, there was no immediate sign that the remnants of Yugoslavia, dominated by Serbia, would enter the fray.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, intent on ending U.N. sanctions, has turned from his early support of rebel Serb causes in Croatia and Bosnia to tout peace. Friday's attack increased speculation that Croatian President Franjo Tudjman had won a promise from Milosevic not to intervene.

Slobodan Jarevic, an adviser to the rebel Serbs in Croatia, acknowledged that his side does "not expect that Yugoslavia will enter the war to defend us."

The Croatian offensive struck along a wide stretch of the front line.

Col. Leslie said "jets bombed the town of Gracac, about 40 kilometres northwest of Knin, and the area around Gospić, about 80 kilometres north of Knin. There were reports Croatian troops were crossing the front line near Gospić."

Croat also shelled Serb positions at Petrinja in the northern part of the Serb-held territory, and the rebels reported one civilian killed and two wounded. Serbs responded by shelling areas around the towns of Sisak and Karlovac, and claimed to have destroyed three Croat tanks.

Zagreb hit

Warning sirens sounded for a second time Friday in the Croatian capital Zagreb, less than one hour after a missile landed in the outskirts of the capital.

The alert sounded at 7:45 p.m. (17 GMT).

Croatian radio announced earlier that a Luna missile had

Intrigues, apathy block memorial plans at Czar's murder

By Dave Carpenter
The Associated Press

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — Traffic roars past the spot where Russia's last Czar and his family met a grisly end nearly eight decades ago. Construction materials litter the largely vacant lot.

The sins of Russia's past and present are colliding in this Ural mountains city, where despite years of debate and fund raising there is no permanent memorial to one of history's most infamous killings.

Corruption, confusion and apathy — mirroring the nation's contemporary problems — all are to blame.

Even the purported chief executioner has a more impressive monument than the victims' meager one.

"It's a pity," said Alexei Katayev, a local history buff looking over the unkempt and nearly deserted site where Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, their five children and four attendants were murdered in 1918.

"It should be properly marked and registered," he said. "People should remember what happened here."

A metal cross, a small memorial stone, a chipped sign appealing for donations and the abandoned framework of a tiny chapel stand on the plateau overlooking this industrial city of 1.3 million people. During the Communist era, it was named Sverdlovsk after the official who arranged the murders.

It was here on July 17, 1918, that a Bolshevik firing squad, on orders from Vladimir Lenin, shot the exiled royal family in the basement of a nobleman's house. The remains were dumped in an abandoned mine outside town.

The KGB ordered the building razed in 1977 because it feared the house would become a pilgrimage site.

A decade later, in the age of glasnost, services were finally allowed at the site, and authorities and the Russian Orthodox Church agreed that a full-scale memorial should be built.

Proposals were grandiose: a museum, a hotel, a seminary wall calendars even depicted a magnificent white marble Cathedral there.

The site was given in 1990 to the church, which had close ties to the Czars. A "substantial amount" of money reportedly was raised, but it vanished two years ago.

Prosecutors are investigating accusations that the chief fund-raiser, a policeman turned clergyman, spent the money on "drinks and debauches."

City and church leaders blame each other for the failure to erect a memorial.

"The city is all in favour of this project, but there just isn't enough money for it," said Maya Mikhailova, a city spokeswoman. "We believe the church bears more responsibility."

Bishop Nikon, the prelate of Yekaterinburg, declined to say how much the church has raised recently. The day he met with a reporter, a bulldozer was paving a long church driveway for a big celebration marking his 35th birthday.

"I have been feeling pressure from the many swindlers who want to get their hands on this money, but I have resisted," said the bishop, who conducts Saturday services at the site.

He said a small, temporary church would be erected within a year. "Believers and sponsors" should pay for a permanent church, he said.

Asked when that would happen, he said: "Maybe in 20 years, maybe in two years — according to God's will."

Like the memorial, the remains of the Czar's family have been in limbo since they were unearthed in 1991.

American, British and Russian forensic scientists have positively identified them. But a special government commission has yet to issue a ruling that would clear the way for burial in St. Petersburg, the former imperial capital.

Public interest seems to have faded, but the Czar's fate still strikes some nerves in Yekaterinburg.

Carnations and lilacs lay near the memorial stone on a recent day.

In a wooded cemetery across town, vandals regularly strike the imposing tombstone of Pyotr Yermakov, the commissar who claimed to have pulled the trigger on the Czar.

The same one-word message always is left on the grave, in blood-red paint: "Killer."

The tale of an escapee from Kashmiri militants

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

WAKURA, India — A 19-year-old girl, her face covered by a black veil, looked around and suddenly stopped under a huge chinar tree. Nearly a dozen armed Indian soldiers looked on.

Parvina Akhtad slowly walked past them and about 100 village elders seated on the lawns of a school building. Then she stood in front of an Indian army general.

From beneath her long flowing black dress, she took out a sophisticated Japanese radio set and put it down next to assorted weapons — general purpose machine guns, AK-57 rifles, rocket and grenade launchers, pistols and ammunition.

No one applauded. But Major General Datta Dalaj Shekhar, the top Indian military officer at Wakura, a farming village of 10,000 people located 40 kilometres north of Srinagar, heaved a sigh of relief.

On Tuesday, 26 militants, including Ms. Akhtad who joined the separatist campaign when she was 14, laid down their arms.

The event — the fourth in the past one year — was organised by the Indian military which has been fighting a separatist campaign by Kashmiri militants since 1989. Most of a dozen rebel groups favour an independent Kashmir. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the remaining one-third.

The popular support for the militants' campaign in Kashmir remains widespread. In the last one year, India has released several leaders of pro-separatist groups in a bid to win over their support and hold state legislative elections in Jammu-Kashmir state, the only Muslim majority state in a predominantly Hindu India.

Some of those who laid down the arms said they were disillusioned with the fighting. Some said mercenaries from Pakistan and Afghanistan have taken over the campaign from the Kashmiris.

India says it will not grant independence to Kashmir and has dispatched at least 300,000 troops to crush the campaign, which has taken 13,000 lives in the last five years. Under a new strategy, the Indian army is trying to woo the militants by promising no trial and rehabilitation of those who give up arms.

"When I was a kid, I wanted to become a teacher," Ms. Akhtad told the Associated Press after the arms laying ceremony was over. She is the youngest daughter of a bakery worker in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. "Ours was a happy family with two other sisters and a brother. My father used to take us on picnics and we are cookies to our heart's delight," she said.

When she was 14, she was approached by a woman from her neighbourhood who told her that all Kashmiri Muslims must fight the Indian troops.

It was February morning and snowing in Srinagar. Parvina left her home without telling anyone.

"I was taken to one of the training camps near Srinagar and was given a course in radio operation."

That was the beginning and she handled communications for a militant outfit. "Though it was tiring, I never felt bad," she said.

But some events upset her. "I realised our (fighters) were also killing innocent people. I also saw some of them extorting money and sometimes killing each other for money," she said.

"I also saw Afghan and Pakistani (fighters) taking over the militant outfits. It was then I decided that I must quit," Ms. Akhtad said.

She would not say how she contacted the Indian military.

"Tell me, can I now study to become a teacher," she asked.

'Iraq can play positive role'

(Continued from page 1)

Amman and will create sub-committees and work teams to handle specific issues.

The two sides expressed their backing to the Arab League's efforts to revive joint Arab action and end inter Arab differences and emphasised the need to bolster security and stability in the Gulf region.

On Iraq the two sides expressed keenness on safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and praised Baghdad for recognising the state of Kuwait and its international boundaries in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 833 as a step in the right direction and the return of security and stability to the Gulf region.

Reviewing the Middle East peace process the two sides reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive settlement based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the return of all Arab lands occupied since 1967 in exchange for peace.

They stressed that without these conditions peace cannot be durable or comprehensive and no stability or security can be guaranteed in the region.

The two sides also expressed deep concern over the situation in Bosnia and condemned the Serb attacks on Bosnian Muslims, the ethnic cleansing operations and other atrocities the Serbs committed against the Bosnian people.

Voicing readiness to extend help to the Bosnian people the two sides appealed to the world community to shoulder their responsibilities and end the Serb aggression and lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian people so that they can acquire means of self defence.

And said he wanted to go to the United States "to prove the justice of his case," the minister added.

"The suspect agreed voluntarily to travel to the United States to defend himself in the case without having to go through the extradition formalities in line with the (Jordanian-American) extradition treaty..." Mr. Tell added.

Both governments ratified the extradition treaty last month.

Nejem

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan to study civil engineering in Wichita, Kansas. He was given a work permit in 1990.

They said the FBI had been tracking him since the bombing and had him under surveillance for at least six months up to his arrest.

Mr. Nejem appeared at a Amman court on Tuesday

Arafat, Peres to review talks

(Continued from page 1)

troops away from Arab communities and security matters.

An Israeli official close to the talks said the only progress made was on the transfer by Israel of civilian powers to the Palestinians. He confirmed that problems remained in security arrangements and troop redeployment.

Israel and the PLO are trying to hammer out an agreement that would allow the Gaza-based Palestinian authorities to expand its control in the West Bank.

Under its 1993 peace accord with the PLO, Israel agreed to pull out its forces from West Bank Palestinian population centres, hand over control to the Palestinian authority and allow the nearly two million Arabs to elect a governing council.

But Israel's concern over security for more than 100,000 Jewish settlers has delayed expansion of Palestinian self-rule.

Syria says

(Continued from page 1)

"Syria which has demanded the total return of the Golan... will never accept an Israeli presence on its territory," Damascus Radio said.

It called on Israel to withdraw its demand "to clear the way for arrangements which will ensure the security of all parties."

Israel's channel two TV reported Wednesday that Mr. Rabin has rejected U.S. requests to renew the ambassadorial talks immediately, "at the expense" of what he considers the more substantial military talks.

Mr. Rabin spokeswoman Aliza Goren confirmed that the premier had instructed Israel's Washington embassy not to commit to any talks with the Syrians until a date was set for military talks.

UAE economic upturn keeps per capita income high

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has maintained its position as having one of the highest per capita incomes in the world after rapid economic growth in the past two decades, officials said Friday.

Although the population has grown by as much as 10 per cent annually since 1975, per capita income remained above \$16,000 as the gross domestic product (GDP) grew faster than the population in some years.

The report by the central bank showed the UAE population surged to 1.3 million in 1985 and 2.23 million in 1994 from 558,000 in 1975, four years after the country was created from a merger of seven Gulf sheikhdoms.

The GDP also jumped from 39.6 billion dirhams (\$10.78 billion) to around 135 billion dirhams (\$36.78 billion), according to the report, carried by the official Emirates news agency WAM.

This showed the per capita

income dropped slightly to around 60,454 dirhams (\$16,472) from 69,800 (\$19,000), as the population started to grow faster than the domestic economy.

The report gave no breakdown for growth in economic sectors but WAM quoted central bank chairman Mohammad Al Muraikhi as saying non-oil sectors had overtaken the oil sector despite a surge in crude exports.

From 13.2 billion dirhams (\$3.59 billion) in 1975, the

GDP in the non-oil sector soared to 89.8 billion dirhams (\$24.4 billion) in 1994. This means its share of the total GDP rose from 33.8 per cent to 66.5 per cent.

Oil exports increased from \$419 million in 1971 to \$11.7 billion in 1994 because of a sharp rise in production.

"The high growth rate in the non-oil sector makes the UAE economy more stable and more self-reliant," Mr. Muraikhi said in the report.

which marked 29 years of UAE President Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan's rule in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE, which now produces around 2.3 million barrels per day (b/d) of crude under an OPEC deal, has pumped an average of \$2 billion into development annually over the past two decades. Construction, industry, banking, trade, and water and electricity were the fastest growing sectors.

A recent study by the planning ministry predicted the population would grow to 2.4 million by the end of 1995 and GDP to 137 billion dirhams (\$37.3 billion). Oil exports would also rise to 2.2 million b/d.

Around two thirds of the UAE's population are non-Arab Asians and other foreigners, who began to stream in after the discovery of oil in the early 1960s.

Sudan abolishes tax on wheat imports

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has abolished tax and customs duties on imported wheat as part of moves to make up for shortfalls in local production, a government newspaper said Friday.

Al Sudan Al Hadith said price controls on imported wheat flour had also been lifted and distribution channels for the wheat would be opened up. Flour mills would be free to choose the quantity of wheat they required, it added.

The paper gave no details of current duties and taxes levied on wheat imports.

Last year Sudan's wheat production accounted for just half of the 600,000 tonne

requirement, despite the ever-increasing areas of land allocated by the government to growing wheat.

Commerce Minister Taj Al Sir Mustafa said the government, already short of cash and fighting a 12-year civil war in the south, had to import over 200,000 tonnes.

Mr. Mustafa said this year the government was ready to pay a minimum price of 140,000 Sudanese pounds (\$245) per tonne for all locally produced wheat.

The paper also quoted Industry Minister Badr Al Din Suleiman as saying Sudan aimed to import 25,000 tonnes of wheat a month between November 1995 and May 1996.

Dollar outlook unclear despite U.S.-Japan resolve

TOKYO (R) — Japan and the United States have shown fresh resolve to cooperate in boosting the dollar, but it is unclear whether teamwork alone will be enough to ensure a firm recovery in the U.S. currency, dealers said Thursday.

"The U.S. and Japan are both concerned about keeping the dollar from harm. But until (things) change a bit more, it will be very difficult for the dollar to gain substantially," said Yasuji Yamana, a chief dealer at the Bank of America.

"Until the dollar makes it at least to 93 yen, I wouldn't say that trends have turned

around," another dealer said.

Although the two countries have previously worked together to strengthen the dollar, most recently in joint intervention on July 7, this time was different, dealers said.

They cited Japan's announcement Wednesday of steps removing barriers to public and private Japanese institutions' overseas investment and loans.

The deregulatory package, which included scrapping limits on insurers' participation in syndicated loans and on their foreign currency loans to overseas borrowers, lifted the dollar above the

key 90 yen resistance level during Asian time.

The gains were then extended in New York Wednesday when the Federal Reserve intervened in foreign exchange markets, joining Tokyo in buying dollars for yen.

"(The governments) must have cooperated behind the scenes. If the U.S. hadn't done anything after the announcement of the Japanese package, it just would have been the same old (unsuccessful) pattern," said Mr. Yamana.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin hailed Japan's

package as "removing impediments to the capital markets."

He noted that it was consistent with the April 25 Group of Seven communiqué, in which Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States called for an orderly reversal of the dollar's decline.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said in a late Wednesday statement that Japan will continue coordinating policies with other major nations in the currency market.

Separately, a senior ministry of finance official told

Reuters Thursday that the previous day's concerted intervention by Japan and the United States demonstrated the consensus on orderly reversal is still intact.

Tokyo dealers agreed. "The spirit of coordinated action is, I think, sincere, otherwise the dollar would have risen so much," said Takako Masai, a dealer at Toronto Dominion Bank.

But dealers warned that the impact of the Japanese package would depend on how much investment actually resulted.

"A lot of investment could eventually even lead to a reduction in Japan's trade

surplus, which would also help the dollar firm. But the question is how much are people actually willing to invest?" said Kazuya Imai, a manager at Hokkaido Takushoku Bank.

A key test of Japanese investors' appetite for foreign assets comes next week, when \$42.5 billion worth of U.S. treasury bonds will be auctioned in a quarterly refunding.

Meanwhile, the dollar climbed to 91 yen and in quiet Friday trading.

The dollar moved half a yen higher in early European business on overnight investment-fund buying.

Germans discuss restructuring Iraq's debt

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A German delegation has discussed plans to restructure Iraq's debts to clear the way for trade projects after the lifting of U.N. sanctions, the head of the team said here Friday.

"We both agreed that the debts should be restructured otherwise they would hinder any project in the future. The Iraqi side is interested in restructuring these debts," said Peter Jungen at the end of a five-day visit.

He said the four-member delegation from the German Near and Middle East Association (NUMOV) would inform Bonn of Iraq's viewpoint on its debt to Germany, estimated at between \$2 and \$3 billion dollars.

"The Iraqi side has also informed us about a lot of infrastructure projects they

want to implement after the end of sanctions, such as railways," Mr. Jungen told AFP.

"We have reached the conclusion that German companies can implement humanitarian projects in Iraq now," he said. "However, we have to ask for the permission of the U.N. sanctions committee."

The German fact-finding mission followed similar trade delegation visits from Britain, France, Italy and Spain.

The German foreign ministry and federal economic ministry were informed of the trip, said Mr. Jungen, who is a member of the board of directors of the Hamburg-based NUMOV.

Before sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Germany's trade with Iraq stood at around \$2 billion a year, including exports of cars, construction equipment and other machinery.

Turkish premier: New 5-year plan to double growth rate

ANKARA (AFP) — A new five-year plan passed last month will double Turkey's growth rate and decentralize administration for the first time, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said Friday.

Termining the country's seventh plan "very different" from previous ones, Ms. Ciller said it concentrated on Turkey's economic improvement.

"Two years ago, our main preoccupation was terrorism," she told reporters. "Now, it is very different. Economy is at the forefront, we must go through economy to solve the terrorism problem," said Ms. Ciller, an economist by training.

Turkey has been battling separatist Kurdish militants in the southeast for the past 11 years. At least 20,000 people have been killed, among them soldiers, militants and civilians, official figures say. The fighting has also severely

undermined the mainly Kurdish southeast's economy with many villagers and farmers fleeing the area to urban centers in central and western Turkey.

Ms. Ciller said under the new plan, the average growth rate per year would jump from 3.5 to seven per cent. Exports would increase from \$20 billion a year to \$44 billion by the end of the plan's term.

The plan also aims at increasing the tourism income from \$14 billion year from the present \$4.5 billion.

Parliament approved the five-year plan about ten days ago, but it was not given much prominence in the media, apparently leading Ms. Ciller to call a news conference on the issue.

Stressing that the "most important part is democratization," Mr. Ciller said the country's regional leaders would enjoy more power.

"This is the first time the plan calls for decentralization, for the increase in local administration," she said.

Local and regional administrators would be authorized to make decisions in their areas, especially concerning infrastructure and services.

The plan also calls for more privatization in agriculture and industry, and for more credit to agricultural cooperatives. A new cotton exchange will be established in the Mediterranean city of Izmir, she said.

Ms. Ciller also said the plan came in time for Turkey's entrance into the European customs union. Turkey is hoping to enter the customs union next year, and the European Parliament is to decide in December.

Meanwhile the Turkish government was debating

Friday a draft bill aimed at lowering and stabilizing the price of bread after its decision earlier this week to scrap a \$20 per ton import duty on wheat.

The draft bill calls for reducing the value added tax (VAT) on wheat flour from eight to one per cent.

The two measures are aimed at battling rising prices of bread set by private bakers and grocery stores. Prices have also fluctuated increasingly the past months as traders await government decisions.

A loaf of bread sells for around 13 cents at municipal bakeries and 20 cents outside, almost double the price a year ago. Fancy bakeries sell bread for up to \$1 a loaf.

"This is a gesture, a step in the right direction," said an official at the European Union's office here, commenting on the tax abolition.

Wheat is not one of the imports affected by the European Union demands.

Other items such as leather, plastic, cement and chemicals have seen a 40 per cent reduction in their import duties this year.

Turkey is expected to abolish the remaining 60 per cent by the end of the year when the European Parliament is to decide on Turkey's bid to join the customs union.

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen!

"Wouldn't you be proud to see this sign on our front lawn?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIFEA
CANET
RUBCH
SOOMER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: TIGER FAUNA INTACT ANSWER: What the jogger stopped for — "RUNNING" WATER

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be careful not to get into any disagreements with others or you could get into serious trouble. Be wise.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use tact, not force with others if you want them to join you in some activity whether of a creative or entertaining nature.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have so many duties you hardly know where to begin, but plan to do them intelligently and they are soon behind you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some friend may try to force you to see things his or her way today, but you do not approve, so resist.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at personal affairs that need completing and avoid outside matters which could get you into trouble.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't run away from duties ahead of you but patiently handle them efficiently and avoid trouble which could occur.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Use tact so that you do not have a battle with your mate today, since this could become very serious.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make sure you postpone that talk with a partner today who is as stubborn as you are over some issue which is important.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It may be a bit hard to handle all the duties ahead of you today, but if you get an early start, they are soon behind you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Forget some entertainment which may be altogether too expensive for you. Await a better time to amuse yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Avoid any disagreements at home or these could reach royal battle proportions which could end sadly for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may find delays in taking little trips for either personal or business reasons today, but take this in your stride.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Robert Zimmerman

ACROSS

- 1 Rattler's threat
- 5 Precious violin
- 10 Use blue pencil
- 14 Woodwind
- 15 Elizabethan essayist
- 16 Encore!
- 17 Valley
- 18 Repugnant
- 19 Lima or pinto
- 20 Picked
- 22 Put down
- 24 Regrets
- 25 Head of cast
- 26 Flower extracts
- 29 At the mike
- 33 Fastens down
- 34 Hushed
- 35 Stadium echo
- 36 — and zags
- 37 Weepy
- 38 Casino game
- 39 Stone or iron
- 40 Cord
- 41 Charges
- 42 Saturday TV fare
- 44 On the level

DOWN

- 1 Causes to be
- 2 Talented
- 3 December song
- 4 Penitagon VIPs
- 5 Lessons
- 6 Stags
- 7 Kind of rock
- 8 Ballerina's pivot point
- 9 In a congenial way
- 10 Go aboard
- 11 Accomplishes
- 12 Dies —
- 13 Care for
- 21 Mongrels
- 25 Pagan divinity
- 26 Down-under
- 27 Siberian forest
- 28 Tammany symbol
- 29 Musial and Freberg
- 30 Ticked off
- 31 Nostrils
- 32 Apparition
- 34 French river
- 37 Does a certain dance
- 38 Zealots
- 40 Drink too much
- 41 Italia's capital
- 43 Veep's lady
- 44 Rope to lead an animal
- 46 Baseball's
- 47 Clay deposit
- 48 Info agency
- 49 Route
- 50 Pierre's dad
- 51 Object of worship
- 52 Too
- 53 Riga native
- 56 Except

Peanuts

SOME OF THE GUYS OVER AT THE PLAYGROUND WERE DISCUSSING CRABBY SISTERS

GUESS WHAT... I WON!

THEY ALL AGREED THAT I HAVE THE CRABBIEST SISTER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I'M A CELEBRITY!

Andy Capp

I DECIDED TO COME BACK TO YOU, PET

I SUPPOSE YOU WANT SOMETHING EAT

NOT A THING

SEEMS LIKE THE WORST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE, TOO, RUBIE

Mutt'n Jeff

YOUR HONOR, THESE TWO GUYS WENT INTO THE RIVER IN THEIR CAR!

BUT WE STARTED TO CROSS THE BRIDGE—

BRIDGE? WE DON'T HAVE A BRIDGE IN THIS TOWN!

WELL, THEN DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU BUILT ONE BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS DROWNED?

YES, DOC, SEND THE WAGON OVER, THIS IS A REAL BAD CASE—

lishes to
mports

requirement, despite
ever-increasing areas
allocated to the grow-
ing wheat.
Commerce Minister
Sir Mustafa said the
government, already short
and fighting a 12-year
war in the south, has
import over 200,000
Mr. Mustafa said the
government was to
pay a minimum of
140,000 Sudanese
(\$245) per tonne for
ally produced wheat.
The paper also ques-
tioned the government's
Suleiman said the
aimed to import 25,000
of wheat a month
between November 1994
May 1995.

USS
Iraq's del

want to implement
end of sanctions, "at
ways," Mr. Jungens
"We have reached a
clue that Germany
can implement a
nitarian project,"
now," he said. "How
have to ask for the
sion of the UN's
committee."

The German
mission followed a
trade delegation to
Britain. France, in
Spain.

The German foreign
try and federal
ministry were infor-
trip, said Mr. Jungens,
a member of the
directors of the
based NUCOV.
Before sanctions were
posed after Iraq's
in Kuwait in August
many's trade with Iraq
at around \$2 billion,
including exports of
construction equipment
other machinery.

HOROSCO
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Astrologer

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Business Daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Building new petroleum refinery to begin next year

WORK WILL begin on
building a new petroleum
refinery in Aqaba in early
1996 at a cost of \$2,000 million,
the minister of energy and
mineral resources has
announced. Setting up the
new refinery, to export petro-
leum products to outside
markets, will be carried out
over nearly four years and
will provide more than 10,000
employment opportunities in
various vocations and special-
ties, the minister said, adding
that the ministry has received
offers from six international
companies to set up and fi-
nance the project. According
to the minister, the com-
panies are currently studying
the economic feasibility of
the scheme and the market-
ing of the refinery products in
outside outlets (Al Ra'i).

THE JORDAN Insurance
Company (JIC) earned
JD 10.96 million in premiums
during the financial year en-
ding March 31, 1995, com-
pared to JD 10.53 million
during the previous year.
However, net profit for 1994/
1995 amounted to JD 1.43
million compared to JD 1.43
million in 1993/1994. As
such, the company's general
assembly approved distrib-
uting JD 500,000, or 10 per
cent, in dividends to the
shareholders. According to
the 1994/1995 annual report,
the general loss to the "tech-
nical sections" amounted to
108.21 per cent (64.55 in
1993/1994) as a result of a
258.84 per cent loss at the fire
department. The vehicle de-
partment registered a JD
281,000 profit (JD 91,300
profit in 1993/1994) because
the company stopped accept-
ing the compulsory third party
insurance from Feb.
14, 1994, until Feb. 28, 1995.
The company has resumed
accepting the compulsory
third party insurance since
March 1, 1995. JIC earned
JD 1.75 million from the
marine department, JD 2.65
million from the fire depart-
ment, JD 5.11 million from
the vehicle department, JD
1.11 million from the general
accidents section and JD
351,336 from the life insur-
ance section. JIC had a total
investment of JD 4.43 million
at cost price at the Amman
Financial Market at the end
of March 1995. At market
value, the investment amount
to JD 4.11 million. The com-
pany earned JD 54,238 from
trading at the stock market in
1994/1995. The company has
JD 4.73 million in real estate
investment while its total
assets stood at JD 19.37 mil-
lion as of March 31, 1995 (Al
Ra'i + Al Dustour).

THE CENTRAL Bank
has supplied border posts
with equipment to detect
counterfeit money. The move
is in line with efforts ex-
ercised by the bank to abort
any attempt to bring any
counterfeit money to the
local market (Al Aswaq).

THE DEPARTMENT of
Customs decided to open a
permanent office at all ex-
hibitions which are held in
the Kingdom to enable the
participants to get first-hand
information about customs
imposed on their products.
The office would also help
answer all exhibitors' ques-
ries. Participants in many ex-
hibitions held recently faced
difficulties because of not
knowing customs levies and
could not sell their products
directly to the public (Al
Aswaq).

THE VALUE of tenders
for government projects dur-
ing the first six months of this
year amounted to JD 145
million spread over 139 ten-
ders, of which 97 tenders
were awarded for a JD 73
million total. During the first
six months of 1995, the Gov-
ernment tenders department
licensed 345 contractors for
one year, and classified 752
contractors into various clas-
ses and specialties. The de-
partment also qualified 85
consultants in all areas (Al
Dustour).

Siemens to make huge investment in U.K.

LONDON (AFP) — A pro-
ject by German group Siem-
ens to build a huge new
microchip plant in the north
of England is one of the
largest foreign investments
ever made in Britain.
Siemens confirmed official-
ly Friday that it would build
the new factory, and said it
would invest two billion
marks in the project, or \$1.45
billion.

The plant, to be con-
structed in two stages, will be
located at Newcastle in
northern England, and will
employ 1,500 workers.

The new factory will make
microchips with a capacity of
16 M-DRAM and 64 M-
DRAM, destined for use in
mobile telephones, telecom-
munications and the media.

"The Siemens plan is the
largest single high-tech invest-
ment ever made in Britain"
and confirms that Britain is
"Europe's competitive
base," British Deputy Prime
Minister Michael Heseltine
said.

The British government
has taken a key role in pro-
moting the project, which
should help to reinvigorate
the northern region of Tynes-
side, around Newcastle,
which has seen the virtual
disappearance of the shipyard
that formed the backbone of
its industry.

Unemployment in the area
is currently 17 per cent.
They Tyneside region,
where the factory will be
built, has been especially hit
this year by the closure of
last of those shipyards, Swan

Hunter.

Mr. Heseltine, minister for
trade and industry until early
July, took personal charge of
the negotiations with the
chairman of Siemens, Hein-
rich von Pierer. And accord-
ing to certain press reports,
Prime Minister John Major
himself took part in some of
the secret discussions.

In October last year, the
U.K. government announced
construction of a factory pro-
ducing microwave ovens and
computer screens to the
south of Newcastle, in Cleve-
land.

The official figures
announced by Siemens were,
however, slightly below those
reported by the regional au-
thorities and by the media.
The British press had esti-
mated the investment at one
billion pounds said it would
create 2,000 jobs.

The German group said
that it could expand the fac-
tory if the microchip market
continued to grow in the
years to come.

"We have been waiting for
a long time for some good
news on the jobs front," said
Stephen Byers, a Labour MP
from the region, before the
announcement was made.

"This is good news for the
north east and reflects coop-
eration between government,
local authorities and the de-
velopment agency," said
Labour trade and industry
spokesman Brian Wilson.

This decision by Siemens,
which aims to double its sales
of microchips, has not brought
joy everywhere in Britain.

But he said continued falls
in real estate values were
likely to delay the disposal of
non-performing assets in the
banking sector.

"I would say sustained de-
clines in property prices is a
major problem as it may
affect the variety of efforts
taken by management of
financial institutions," he
told a luncheon.

Mr. Nishimura estimated
the ultimate loan losses suf-
fered by banks at between 10
trillion yen and 15 trillion yen
(\$110 billion and \$170 bil-
lion). The ministry has es-
timated the entire financial
sector's non-performing
loans at 40 trillion yen, but
recently said it could be closer
to 50 trillion yen.

The banking bureau chief
said the government should
tackle the liquidation of
property collateral with such
actions as tax and budget
measures.

Mr. Nishimura also said
the ministry might commit
public funds to bail out credit
associations and second-tier
regional banks, which have a
weaker management base
compared with larger banks.

"I am by no means opti-
mistic about the current
financial situation and we
may have to consider the
public involvement to rescue
smaller financial institu-
tions," he said. But public
funds committed "would not
be that much."

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1- "Senior" executive secretary with word processing
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2- Computing; experience in financial and feasibility
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3- Junior secretary with very good ability in word
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Conditions are excellent with long term view of
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Please send your C.V. to P.O.Box 753257 Amman.

Financial
Markets
In co-operation with
Calro Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 2/8/95	Tokyo Close 3/8/95
Sterling Pound	1.6015	1.6021 **
Deutsche Mark	1.3973	1.3936
Swiss Franc	1.1575	1.1544 **
French Franc	4.8150	4.8060 **
Japanese Yen	90.92	90.45
European Currency Unit	1.3320	1.3360 **

Forex Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	6 MTN	12 MTN
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.61
Sterling Pound	5.56	5.62	6.75	6.63
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.31	4.37
Swiss Franc	2.43	2.50	2.68	2.81
French Franc	6.00	5.45	5.78	5.79
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.56	0.50	0.50
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.87

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Unit	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.700	0.702
Sterling Pound	1.1203	1.1259
Deutsche Mark	0.5018	0.5043
Swiss Franc	0.6061	0.6091
French Franc	0.1458	0.1465
Japanese Yen	0.7705	0.7744
Deutch Guilder	0.4480	0.4502
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	---	---

Other Currencies

Currency	Unit	Offer
Baharini Dinar	1.4410	1.4530
Lebanese Lira	0.0425	0.0435
Saudi Riyal	0.1863	0.1877
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.9950	2.3550
Qatari Riyal	0.1911	0.1923
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100
Omani Rial	1.0000	1.2200
UAE Dirham	0.1900	0.1900
Greek Drachma	0.2415	0.3250
Cyprus Pound	1.5400	1.5950

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling
rates for leading world currencies and gold against the
dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and
bullion markets Friday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3558/68	Canadian dollar	1.3962/72
	1.5644/54	Deutsche marks	1.5644/54
	1.1536/46	Dutch guilders	28.70/74
	4.8098/48	Swiss francs	1578.69/6
	91.06/15	Belgian francs	7.0775/75
	5.4135/85	French francs	6.1650/00
		Italian lire	5.4135/85
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One Sterling	1.6022/32	U.S. dollar	
One ounce of gold	\$384.30/384.60	U.S. dollars	

Japanese influence unchallenged in Asia

SINGAPORE (R) — Fifty
years after Japan's army was
expelled from Southeast Asia
at the end of World War II,
the country's economic sway
over the region is greater
than ever.

Japan provides more in-
vestment, more exports and
more tourists than any other
country and economists say
its influence will continue to
increase with little serious
challenge from other Asian
rivals as long as the yen stays
strong.

The sheer size of its avail-
able capital and its domi-
nance in high-technology in-
dustries put it in a different
league from the smaller "tiger"
economies of Taiwan and
South Korea.

"Japan is, and will con-
tinue to be, the prime export-
er of capital to the region,"
said Christopher Hunt, head
of research at BBC Warburg
in Singapore. "It's a symbiotic
relationship: Japan needs

Japanese bank loan losses as high as \$170b

TOKYO (AFP) — A senior
finance ministry official
Thursday estimated ultimate
losses on Japanese bank
loans at up to \$170 billion,
about a third of the non-
performing loans of all
financial institutions.

"Although the amount of
non-performing loans ap-
pears to be large, the
actual amount which needs
treatment is comparatively
small," said Yoshimasa
Nishimura, director general
of the ministry's finance
bureau.

But he said continued falls
in real estate values were
likely to delay the disposal of
non-performing assets in the
banking sector.

"I would say sustained de-
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	1.5644/54	Deutsche marks	1.5644/54
	1.1536/46	Dutch guilders	28.70/74
	4.8098/48	Swiss francs	1578.69/6
	91.06/15	Belgian francs	7.0775/75
	5.4135/85	French francs	6.1650/00
		Italian lire	5.4135/85
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One Sterling	1.6022/32	U.S. dollar	
One ounce of gold	\$384.30/384.60	U.S. dollars	

Japanese influence unchallenged in Asia

SINGAPORE (R) — Fifty
years after Japan's army was
expelled from Southeast Asia
at the end of World War II,
the country's economic sway
over the region is greater
than ever.

Japan provides more in-
vestment, more exports and
more tourists than any other
country and economists say
its influence will continue to
increase with little serious
challenge from other Asian
rivals as long as the yen stays
strong.

The sheer size of its avail-
able capital and its domi-
nance in high-technology in-
dustries put it in a different
league from the smaller "tiger"
economies of Taiwan and
South Korea.

"Japan is, and will con-
tinue to be, the prime export-
er of capital to the region,"
said Christopher Hunt, head
of research at BBC Warburg
in Singapore. "It's a symbiotic
relationship: Japan needs

Japanese bank loan losses as high as \$170b

TOKYO (AFP) — A senior
finance ministry official
Thursday estimated ultimate
losses on Japanese bank
loans at up to \$170 billion,
about a third of the non-
performing loans of all
financial institutions.

"Although the amount of
non-performing loans ap-
pears to be large, the
actual amount which needs
treatment is comparatively
small," said Yoshimasa
Nishimura, director general
of the ministry's finance
bureau.

But he said continued falls
in real estate values were
likely to delay the disposal of
non-performing assets in the
banking sector.

"I would say sustained de-
clines in property prices is a
major problem as it may
affect the variety of efforts
taken by management of
financial institutions," he
told a luncheon.

Mr. Nishimura estimated
the ultimate loan losses suf-
fered by banks at between 10

Princess Sarvath meets women's basketball team, stresses need to take part in international events

Players proud to have represented Jordan, eye advanced standing in 1997

By Aileen Bannayan

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Thursday met with members of Jordan's women's national basketball team who recently returned home after taking part in the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for women held in the Japanese city of Shizuoka between July 24 and 30.

Players and officials of the team expressed their heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath as they were the ones who made their trip come through at the last moment by donating JD 5,000 to cover travel expenses when the team's fund-raising effort fell short of its target.

Princess Sarvath inquired the players about their impressions at the Asian championship and stressed the need for participation in such international events.

"Only by such participation can we upgrade our standard as more experienced teams. Set your sights on the upcoming championship and I am sure you will do much better each time," the Princess told the players.

Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Chairman Awad Haddad said participation in all upcoming Asian tournaments was a must for all age-groups and teams and said all efforts would be exerted to this end.

Asked about the team's preparations and any problems they faced during training, the coach and players said the availability of practice courts was the major problem.

"During the five months when the team was regrouped we only had four practices on official courts (the Baccalaureate and the Sports Palace)," coach Fadi Sabbah explained.

The players added that there was a wide difference between the JBF court and the indoor courts at schools where they practised and the courts they played on at the Asian championship.

Princess Sarvath said the Baccalaureate School court — which is the closest to international specifications — could be utilised for the team's practice from now on.

Taking part in the competition for the first time, the Kingdom's team finished fifth in Level B which also included teams from Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Level A included China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. China won the Level A title, while Thailand won the Level B trophy.

Taking into consideration that the Kingdom's players were participating in their first ever tournament since being regrouped after a 12-year absence, the team ended their participation on a high note after coming from



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan meets with the JBF president and members of the Kingdom's women's basketball team (Petra photo)



The Kingdom's team celebrates after defeating Indonesia 58-55 to finish fifth in Level B

28-20 down in the first half to upset Indonesia 58-55 on the final day. A surprise announcement awaited the Kingdom's players and officials at the closing ceremony when the team's top scorer, Jumana Salti, was chosen among the top five Asian players in Level B. Salti was Jordan's top scorer and rebounder in Jordan's team averaging 16.8 points and 12 rebounds per game.

"I was stunned," Salti told the Jordan Times. "Although I was happy and proud of my achievement I know I still have a long way to go and that I could do better."

"Our team can do much better next time. I believe we can undoubtedly be among the top three," she added.

Players and team officials all conclude that had it not been for the circumstances surrounding the team's preparations and travel arrangements, results could have been quite different.

Besides the fact that the team only had four practice matches against Syrian champions Al Jalal, the

team had to come up with nearly half of the JD 12,000 travel cost by collecting donations from understanding individuals and institutions.

Furthermore, since travel arrangements came through on the last day, the team had to stay in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for two days and thus missed the opening ceremony and reached Shizuoka only nine hours before their first match.

They lost their first match 79-41 to the Philippines as the team lost the efforts of one of the team's usual top scorers Suhair Maqusi who was injured during warm-up. On the second day, jet lag and exhaustion were still persistent as Jordan lost 82-38 to Malaysia and the team had another setback when midway through the first half, another of the team's key players, Jehane Abdelnour, sprained her ankle and the injury hampered her usual scoring and manoeuvrability throughout the competition.

In the match attended by Jordanian embassy officials who came from Tokyo, the

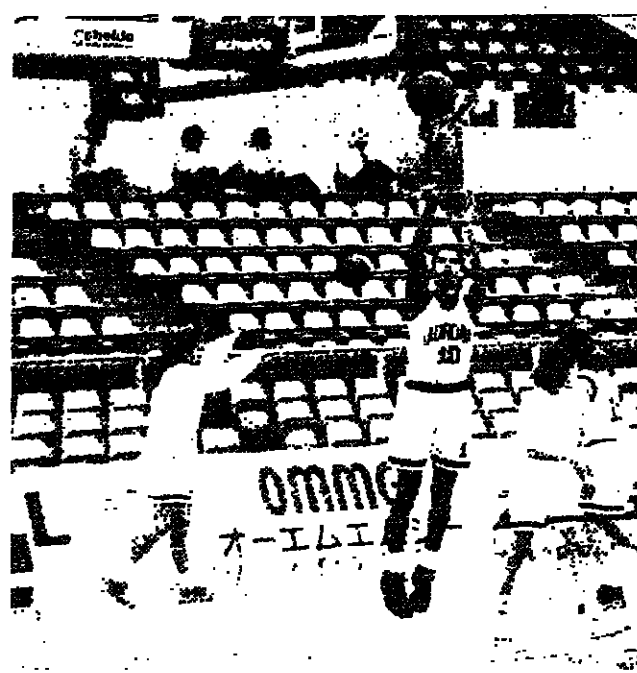
Kingdom's team came quite close to beating Level B runners up Hong Kong, winning the second half 29-27 but losing the match 65-45 on the score difference Hong Kong had in the first half.

Jordan's team was probably the only consistent team in Level B as they improved from one match to another. In their fourth game they gave eventual winners Thailand a hard time before experience made the difference and Jordan lost 71-42.

The only Arab team in the 12-nation competition, Jordan's team was warmly welcomed by Asian basketball officials who stressed the need for Jordan's continued participation.

"This was our first time in such a competition. Next time we know exactly what to expect," explained Suhair Maqusi. "Because of my injury, I had a chance to watch the matches closely. The other teams are very well prepared and I think we benefited a lot. I cannot wait to go back to practice."

Teammate Tala Al



Jordan's top scorer Jumana Salti goes for the basket. Salti was chosen among the top 5 players in Level B

Mauge agreed: "We faced teams we did not know anything about. They were prepared for everything. They mastered their homework."

Jehane Abdelnour added: "We could have done better. Still it was a great experience."

Hind Al Ghouri, who was among the top three rebounders of the team, said: "This was just a stepping stone for us. It was a great chance to participate in such a championship, and I think we can do very well in the future."

Andreia Kasissieh and Rania Dajani stressed the importance of Jordan's taking part in such a competition. "We undoubtedly benefited a lot. We were the centre of attraction being the only Arab team and the one travelling from the farthest distance. It was an unbelievable feeling."

Teammate Hala Muheisen summed up the

team's morale upon participating in this Asian gathering. "Seeing the Jordanian flag among all those of the Asian nations was great. I felt proud to be there and represent my country. I am more determined now to practise harder and hopefully score a very good result in the 1997 championship."

Head of Jordan's delegation to Japan Muna Janho said the important thing was "to continue what we started and take part in all upcoming championships. Coach Fadi Sabbah also agreed adding "it was important that we started somewhere. We know where we stand in Asian basketball, and we hope all those who did not think we could actually regroup the team and take part will now believe that the JBF and its women's basketball committee is serious and determined to 'have a team'."



Jordan's team captain Rana Hussein is dwarfed by 204 centimetre tall Chinese giant Zheng Haixia who was chosen the tournament's Most Valuable Player

Sanchez Vicario falls to Witmeyer

CARLSBAD (Agencies) —

Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, slowed by a hamstring injury, fell to hard-hitting American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$430,000 Toshiba Tennis Classic.

"I did exactly what I wanted to do," said the 11th-seeded Werdel Witmeyer, who also banged out a win over Sanchez in their meeting last March at the Lipton Championships.

"I wanted to be aggressive, try to keep my errors down as much as I could, and force her to be more aggressive."

After winning the opening game of the second set, Sanchez called for WTA trainer Cathy Ortega on the changeover and was treated for a pulled right hamstring, which was wrapped in a bandage before she returned to the court.

"It was painful, especially when I went to my forehand," said Sanchez. "I can feel it getting worse and I tried not to think about it. But there's nothing you can do. If you don't get fast to the ball again, you know you have to run to the next shot. It's impossible."

Others gaining quarterfinal berths included ninth seed Lisa Raymond, who beat fellow-American Lindsay Lee 6-4, 6-2; Australian Rachel McQuillan, a 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) winner over American Sandra Cacic, and 16th-seeded Gigi Fernandez, who beat Christina Singer of Germany 6-3, 6-1.

Werdel Witmeyer set the pace from the start, displaying punishing groundstrokes which kept world number two Sanchez scurrying around the hard court of La Costa Hotel and Spa for much of the one-hour 46-minute match.

"I knew if I could force her to be more aggressive than what she's comfortable with she might make some errors, and she did. You always have the advantage if you can make the other player change their game."

The American used two early breaks to jump to a 5-1 lead on the way to claiming the first set.

Despite the injury, the Spaniard fought back and levelled the match by winning the final four games of the second set, helped by a rash of mistakes from Werdel Witmeyer.

"When the second set was over, I was almost glad that I got to start fresh in the third set," said Werdel Witmeyer.

Werdel Witmeyer again began finding the mark with her explosive groundstrokes for a 5-1 advantage in the decisive set before serving out the victory.

Sanchez, 23, would not blame the defeat on her injury.

"It was bothering me a little but I think she played very good," said Sanchez.

Werdel Witmeyer said Sanchez could never be counted out.

"She was limping one point and then running down balls the bionic woman would only get the next point," the winner said.

KODAK UNVEILS NEW GENERATION OF GOLD FILM IN JORDAN

at a dealers conference held in Amman, Kodak (Near East) Inc. and Kodak Distributor Allied Trade and Supply Co. announced the launch of the new generation of Kodak Gold films in Jordan. Built on the same new colour technology used in the 'European Colour Print Film of the year 1994-1995' award winning Gold 400 film, the new range offers reduced processing sensitivity with similar printing characteristics.

"This means consistent film performance at the photo inisher/minilab and outstanding results. The new generation enables photo finishers to deliver excellent quality from the entire Gold range. In short, better pictures for every kind of photography," said Mr. V. Zeitenzian, of Kodak (Near East) Inc. who is currently visiting Amman to launch the new films.

The new family is a quantum leap in colour negative technology featuring Triple Coated Magenta which allows precise control of imaging. The first layer achieves grain control, the mid layer improves colour reproduction and the slow layer provides a wide process latitude.

"We are committed to marketing and supporting Kodak brand in the Kingdom. The Gold film launch is one of a series of activities designed to gain a substantial share for Kodak picture taking/picture making activities," commented Mr. Shaheen, Allied Trade and Supply General Manager.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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The Book "The Moon Watch"

Last June, the American space shuttle Atlantis had a rendezvous with the Russian space station MIR 20 years after the historic Apollo-Soyuz link-up.

Also in June, the American world premiere of the film "Apollo 13" took place. Starring Tom Hanks, recounting the epic journey of that fateful mission in 1970.

These two significant 1995 space events have a common denominator: the Omega Speedmaster Professional chronograph wristwatch, flight-qualified by NASA in 1965 for all manned space missions.

To conclude the 25th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon mankind's greatest adventure - and to prepare the celebration of these events, Omega has published a book telling when, how and why the one and only watch ever worn on the Moon was conceived.

Flight-qualified by NASA, participated in all its space missions (plus all Russian missions since 1975), received NASA's "Snoopy Award" and has generated a dynasty of world renowned Omega Speedmaster chronographs.

Real Madrid reel under financial crisis

MADRID (R) — Mounting debts, a boardroom rebellion and the threat of drastic sanctions from the Spanish League have flung mighty Real Madrid into the worst financial crisis of their 93-year history.

The biggest name in European club football has debts estimated at between \$10.4 and \$16 million, dating from the 1993 rebuilding of the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The club's board met last week to agree a rescue plan, but three hours of heated

debate ended in failure. Seven top financial directors stormed out, frustrated at the club's apparent reluctance to put its financial house in order.

Four days later the depleted board presented Real's 1994/95 accounts to the Spanish Football League (LFP) amid feverish media speculation that the club could no longer honour its debt.

Spanish sports newspapers suggested the league might hand the champions an unthinkable punishment — re-

legation to the third division. That fear evaporated on Tuesday when a meeting of the LFP finance committee relegated Sevilla and Celta but spared Real.

Real's embattled board, on the initiative of vice-president Lorenzo Sanz, had stumped up the cash to cover five per cent of next season's budget, as the LFP requires. Disaster was averted.

Nevertheless, the crisis, which Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza describes as the worst he has ever faced, has posed searching ques-

tions about the way the club is run. With cruel irony, the club's fortunes have hit rock bottom just when their team is scaling new heights.

Real swept the Spanish League last season after four years playing second fiddle to Barcelona, and now they want the European Cup, the trophy they made their own in the 1950s when they won it five times in a row.

But that was then and this is now, say the seven rebel directors who resigned last Thursday. Real Madrid has

to move with the times and compete in the hard-headed financial world of the 1990s. The rebel directors, led by vice-president Juan Miguel Villar Mir, said they would guarantee Real Madrid's debt, but only if the club approved a stringent restructuring plan.

They said Real, winners of the Spanish League a record 26 times, must sell their recently built commercial centre and sack some management.

Madrid built the shopping centre, "The Bernabeu Cor-

ner," in 1993 when they renovated the daunting stadium and increased capacity to 107,000 from 90,000.

But rebuilding ran substantially over budget and the club suffered a \$1.2 million deficit on the year. Villar Mir and his supporters say a wholesale shake-up is now imperative.

"This is a project which, in my humble opinion, Real Madrid urgently needs," he said after Thursday's stormy meeting. "I want the club to pull itself out of economic mire but that will need huge financial restructuring."

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Iraq steps up attack on U.S.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq paved the way for the arrival on Friday of a U.N. envoy in charge of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction with a blistering tirade against the United States, the third in as many days.

Iraq is incensed by last week's statement by President Bill Clinton that the United States will not lift sanctions from Baghdad because it has failed to comply fully with post-Gulf war U.N. sanctions.

In Friday, Al Thawra newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party said Mr. Clinton was "threatening and openly calling for the continuation of deliberate killing of our steadfast and patient people."

Al Iraq newspaper said Washington harboured "evil and rancorous intentions" against Iraq.

Iraq repeatedly points to the suffering inflicted on ordinary people by the sanctions, which bar Baghdad from selling all but a trickle of its vast oil supplies.

Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) implementing the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, arrived on Friday for his latest mission to ensure that Baghdad is abiding by U.N. resolutions.

Iraq is expected to provide Mr. Ekeus with what it says is a full and thorough disclosure of its germ warfare research, the last outstanding issue between Baghdad and UN-

SCOM.

It hopes UNSCOM will give Iraq a clean bill of health on disarmament issues, opening the way for a lifting of the ban on oil exports.

But on Thursday, the United States' ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, appeared to dampen Iraq's hopes.

Mr. Albright told a U.S. senate hearing that Iraq could not be trusted to volunteer full data on its biological warfare stocks.

She also claimed Iraq had admitted to producing enough agents to kill every man, woman and child on earth.

While saying it has complied fully with U.N. requirements, Iraq has also set the end of August as a deadline for UNSCOM to finish its work in the country.

Otherwise, Iraq says, it will no longer be ready to continue cooperation.

Mr. Ekeus told reporters in Baghdad he would discuss biological weapons and meet Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Saturday as well as Oil Minister Amr Rashid.

Mr. Ekeus, whose seven-member team includes three experts on bacteriological weapons and Russian ballistic missiles expert Nikita Smidovich, flew in from the Bahraini capital on a mission expected to last until Sunday.

The spokesman for the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament, Tim Trevan, said from

the commission's Manama office that Mr. Ekeus would seek a "complete and definitive" list of the germ warfare programme, as Iraq promised to supply in June.

Mr. Ekeus has said the germ warfare issue was the only major obstacle to lifting the oil embargo.

Under U.N. Resolution 687, one of the terms for ending the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term arms monitoring before the embargo can be lifted.

Canadian claims for compensation from Iraq for its invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990-1991 now exceed \$141 million, the Canadian government said Friday.

The figure was released by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in an announcement that any further Canadian claims to be considered by Ottawa for forwarding to the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva must be submitted by No. 15.

This deadline applies to Canadian corporations, governments (provincial and municipal) and international organisations. The deadline for claims by individuals was Jan. 1.

The government said that so far it had received approximately 1,300 claims by individuals and corporations for damage totalling more than \$141 million.



KARACHI KILLING FIELDS: Two volunteers cover the corpses of 12 people killed by unidentified gunmen in the

Orangi suburb in Western Karachi. The bodies were found early morning Friday in a mini-bus (AFP photo)

Settlers demand unarmed Palestinian police

TEL AVIV (R) — Jewish settlers on Friday asked Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin not to allow Palestinian police expected to deploy in the West Bank to carry rifles.

They met Mr. Rabin and military chiefs for over two hours at the end of a week in which Jewish settlers who oppose Palestinian self-rule seized the political initiative by illegally occupying West Bank hilltops.

Hundreds were dragged away and briefly arrested every day from Monday to Thursday, when the settlers declared a three-day truce that coincides with Jewish religious holidays.

"There is a clash between the political and security issues," said settler leader Uri Ariel of the 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal that gave Palestinians self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho last year, and should expand in the West Bank in the next phase.

"For example, letting 20,000 so-called police come in with Kalashnikovs (rifles) raises our fear of a worsening of security, not increased security. One could say, maybe these police shouldn't have Kalashnikovs, but just clubs and a few guns? This would reduce the security risk."

Many of the 100,000 Jewish settlers living among one million Palestinians in the West Bank are themselves armed. The Israeli army guards all the 144 settlements in Gaza and the West Bank.

The protesters claim the West Bank as part of the land God intended for the Jews alone as their eternal patrimony.

The Israel-PLO peace deal allows the settlements to stay put during an interim period and much of the delay in the implementation of its West Bank part — already over a year behind schedule — is due to Israeli-PLO differences over security.

Another week of negotiations on the second stage of the accord ended on Friday in the southern Israeli resort of Eilat with little progress on the main issues: redeployment of Israeli troops out of Arab communities, Palestinian elections, and security.

Settler Rabbi Shlomo Riskin said the talks increasingly alarmed the settlers. "For almost two years we settlers have felt almost completely isolated," he said. "We are in a fog. We don't know what will happen to our land or to our water. For us, these are all existential problems."

Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman said the prime minister would meet the settlers again on Tuesday. She declined to say what Mr. Rabin's reaction was to the settlers' demands.

"There are some problems they think the government should take into consideration when negotiating with the Palestinians," she said. "Rabin listened to them. He's not going to stop the negotiations with the Palestinians. They didn't ask him to."

Hamas supporters accuse U.S. of waging war on Islam

GAZA, Gaza Strip (AP) — Supporters of the Islamic group Hamas burned American and Israeli flags on Friday and accused the United States of waging war on Islam.

Hamas is demanding the immediate release of its political leader, Mousa Abu Marzouk, who was arrested last week in the United States.

"Oh, Muslims. You should all be aware that Abu Marzouk's detention is part of the war on Islam and Muslims," Sheikh Wajih Yaghi told thousands of worshippers at Hamas' Palestine mosque.

In leaflets thrown into the air by Hamas activists, their faces covered with checkered kaffiyahs, the group also warned that if Dr. Abu Marzouk was tried or extradited to Israel, American interests in the Middle East and the rest of the world would be "exposed to the anger of Arab and Islamic masses."

Hamas urged its supporters around the world to "stand ready to move to defend the

men of Islam at the right moment and in the right place."

A leaflet distributed in English said the U.S. administration was responsible for Dr. Abu Marzouk's safety.

"This arrest will undoubtedly increase the anger and hatred of Arab and Islamic peoples against the USA and its aggressive policy," it said.

"Bearing in mind that Hamas didn't attack any American targets but directed its struggle against the Israeli occupation and its brutal acts in Palestine only, it calls the American administration to (reconsider) this serious step and secure his release."

English and Arabic banners outside and inside the mosque said, "reconsider everything before extraditing Abu Marzouk" and "handing Dr. Abu Marzouk over to Israel will hurt American interests in the Middle East."

Dr. Abu Marzouk was arrested at New York's Ken-

nedy international airport on July 25. U.S. immigration inspectors said his name had recently been added to a list of suspected terrorists.

Israel put out a warrant for his arrest, contending that Dr. Abu Marzouk ordered attacks on Israeli citizens and soldiers and sent money to the West Bank and Gaza that Hamas used to buy weapons to carry out attacks.

In Washington, State Department Press Secretary Mike McCurry said Thursday the administration has not received a formal request from Israel for extradition of Dr. Abu Marzouk. But he confirmed informal contacts about Tel Aviv's desire to try Dr. Abu Marzouk on terrorist charges.

"We have not received a formal request from Israel," Mr. McCurry said. "We would of course consider that. We have had a communication from the government of Israel on the status of this matter."

NEWS IN BRIEF

60 feared killed as ferry capsizes

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A ferry capsized in a flooded eastern Indian river and at least 60 passengers were feared drowned, news reports said Friday. The ferry was carrying 100 passengers when it capsized Thursday in the flooded Damodar river in wet Bengal state during a fiery thunderstorm. Press Trust of India news agency said. Local police said 40 passengers either swam ashore or were rescued by villagers of Mejia Ghat in Burdwan district. Rescue teams were still looking for possible survivors.

Lebanese lost \$6.4b in war

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanon is estimated to have lost \$6.4 billion in revenues from tourists since civil war erupted in 1975, a hotel industry official was quoted Friday as saying. Pierre Salameh, a senior official in Lebanon's Hotel and Tourism Association, said the country has a long way to go because of the destruction of hotels wrought by the 1975-90 civil war as well as international development and the advance of the industry. "The war took Lebanon off the map and the nation lagged behind in everything, replaced as a tourist destination by other attractive countries," he told a seminar earlier this week. His comments were published by the conservative Ad Diyar newspaper Friday. Tiny Lebanon was a major tourist destination in the Middle East before the war, attracting millions of Arab and Western tourists lured by its Mediterranean beaches and mountainous terrain.

Karachi peace talks deadlocked

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — An explosion of violence in Karachi which killed 27 people has left "no hope" for an early peace in Pakistan's economic hub, an opposition leader said Friday. "We feel there is no hope for an early resumption of talks with the government," said Ajmal Dehvi, chief negotiator of the ethnic based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). Negotiations to end the bloodshed deadlocked early this week when Dehvi boycotted the fifth round of talks, saying the government team was not sincere. More than 2,000 have been killed in Karachi over the past 19 months, including 12 who were found bound, blindfolded and slaughtered in a minibus in one of the worst incidents on Thursday. All told, 27 people were gunned down Thursday. As the killings continue, the dispute between the government and the MQM, which represents the Mohajir migrants from India who arrived following the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, objects to the government's decision to refer to it as the "Altaf Group" after its leader, Altaf Hussain. "It seems the government will keep on calling us MQM and respect its mandate," Mr. Dehvi said in an interview published here Friday. He said no talks would be held until the government begins to call the group MQM.

German police overpower kidnapper

KIEL, Germany (R) — German commandos overpowered a Lebanese man and freed seven children he took captive, doused with petrol and threatened to ignite, police said on Friday. Police in the northern town of Rendburg, near Kiel, stormed a home for asylum seekers where the 35-year-old man was holding the children and freed them unharmed, a spokesman said.

'300 million-year-old lizard'

GOTHA, Germany (AFP) — German and American scientists have discovered a 300 million-year-old lizard's skeleton in the Thuringian forest, near Gotha, central Germany, scientists said Friday. According to Thomas Martens, curator of paleontology at Gotha's Natural History Museum, the metre-long (three-foot) skeleton's species has not been yet identified. The saurian group of reptiles originally included lizards, crocodiles and several extinct forms, but is now technically restricted to lizards. The primitive forms of vertebrate animals are not to be confused with dinosaurs which lived some 150 million years later and were larger, Martens explained.

300 Chinese buses for Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — China is to supply Sudan with 300 buses in the next two years, a Khartoum paper said on Friday. The privately-owned Al Rai Al Akhir (the other viewpoint) reported that a contract for the supply of 100 buses in the next four months was signed on Wednesday by a finance ministry official and the economic counselor at the Chinese embassy in Khartoum. The newspaper did not give the terms of the contract but said the buses were for Khartoum state, which suffers from an acute shortage of public transport. The other 200 buses are to come in the next two years, it said.

Maid's retrial to begin in UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Filipina maid jailed for seven years for killing her employer after he raped her will have a second chance to clear her name when a retrial begins in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday. A new panel of judges will hold the first hearing at an Islamic court which on June 26 convicted 16-year-old Sarah Balaban of the manslaughter of Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, an Emirati. The court at Al ain, 160 kilometres east of Abu Dhabi, sentenced Balaban to seven years in prison and ordered her to pay 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in blood money to the man's family. But it also awarded her 100,000 dirhams (\$27,000) in compensation after concluding she had been raped by Mr. Baloushi. The UAE decided to order a retrial after Balaban's lawyer filed for an appeal. A hearing to determine whether an appeals court should take up the case had been scheduled for September.

French retaliation threatens key Australian imports

PARIS (AFP) — France's threat to review imports of Australian coal and uranium, in the latest escalation of the tit-for-tat row over nuclear tests, hit two of Canberra's principal exports here Friday.

But analysts noted that at least one of the warnings could backfire: high-quality Australian coal is needed to make French steel, and the loss of its imports pose significant problems.

"This quality of coke can't be found overnight, they produce it in the United States, but you have to retreat it," said a spokesman for the Technical Association of Coal Importers (ATIC).

Coal is France's biggest imported product from Australia, ahead of wool and iron ore. Last year Paris imported 2.8 million tonnes at a cost of one billion francs (\$200 million).

The threat to review coal and uranium imports was announced Thursday evening in a package of measures taken against Canberra in retaliation for its protest action over France's planned resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

The package included a warning that France would turn to the World Trade

Organisation if Paris believed Canberra had violated international free trade rules, while Paris also said it would ask the United Nations to examine what it considers Australian violations of a convention on diplomatic privileges.

French Industry Minister Yves Galland said Friday it was too early to assess the effects of the nuclear row, sparked last week when Canberra black-listed French aerospace firm Dassault-Breguet from bidding for a major defence contract.

Meanwhile the "threat" to renege on contracts to buy Australian uranium was dismissed by Australian officials in Paris on Friday as meaningless, since France has an interest in doing so anyway.

A spokesman for the Australian embassy said the terms of the contracts, worth 80 million Australian dollars (about \$60 million) over the next six years, were disadvantageous to France because it was paying too much.

The contracts have been agreed on a long-term basis and run until 2001, and the price being paid is above the current spot price for uranium, he said.

"This is not so much a threat as extending the opportunity for Australia to get out of the contract, he said, commenting on tit-for-tat measures announced by France Thursday night.

Ironically, Australian uranium is used to build the bombs at the heart of the dispute between Paris and Canberra. Of its 7,900 tonnes used annually, France imports three per cent from Canberra, having paid 55 million francs (about \$10 million) for it last year.

A question mark also remained Friday over a third economic measure announced by Paris Thursday, apparently in retaliation for Australia's nuclear protests.

The decision to ban France's state power company EDF from participating in a privatisation project in the Australian state of Victoria had apparently already been taken because the project was not financially attractive.

Mr. Galland said on French radio that he had taken the decision "well before all the recent information, and for purely economic reasons."

Main dates in Croatia since independence

PARIS (AFP) — Croatia, a former republic in the former Yugoslavia, declared its independence on June 25, 1991. Slovenia followed suit the same day. The following is a list of significant dates in Croatia since then:

1991

June 25: Declaration of independence in Croatia and Slovenia.

July 3: Clashes in Croatia between Croats and Serbs fighting for ties with Serbia.

Sept. 25: Arms embargo imposed on Yugoslavia by the United Nations.

Oct. 1: Offensive of the Federal Army (majority Serb) in eastern Croatia and the area around Dubrovnik on the Adriatic coast.

Nov. 18: Fall of Vukovar after a three-month siege.

Dec. 6: Federal Army attacks Croatia and launches assaults in Osijek and Dubrovnik.

Dec. 19: Croatian Serbs declare a breakaway Serb Republic uniting Krajina and western Slovenia (east of Croatia), in a fourth of Croatian territory.

Dec. 23: Germany recognises Croatia and Slovenia.

1992

Jan. 15: Slovenia and Croatia recognised by the European Economic Community.

Feb. 21: U.N. Security Council votes unanimously to send 14,000 soldiers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) into

1993

January: Croatian Army retakes from the Serbs the strategically important Maslenica bay where a bridge links north and south Croatia, as well as Zadar airport, and Peruca dam near Split on the Adriatic coast.

September: Croatian army enters Medak, 200 kilometres south of Zagreb and several villages until then under Serb control.

1994

March 30: A ceasefire accord signed between Croatia and the secessionist Serbs of Krajina calls for a gradual disengagement of forces and the stationing of U.N. peacekeepers between them.

1995

Feb. 8: Krajina breaks off economic and political negotiations with Zagreb.

March 12: Croatia, which had called for U.N. peacekeepers to leave, accepts U.N. peacekeepers will remain in Croatia in reduced numbers but with a redefined mandate.

March 31: U.N. transfers UNPROFOR into three distinct missions.

May 2: Serb enclave of Western Slavonia is recaptured by the Croats. Zagreb is attacked by Serb fire, killing 23 and wounding 150.

May 23: Self-styled Serb parliament of Bosnia approves a unification plan with Krajina.

June 4-5: The Croatian forces of Bosnia (HVO) and the regular army carry out an operation to weaken Knin, the stronghold of the Serbs of Croatia.

July 22: Croatia agrees to give military aid to Bosnia and the Croatian-Muslim Federation against Serb aggression especially in Bihać.

July 27: The United Nations decides to strengthen its forces along the international border in Croatia with Bosnia and in the zones separating the Croatian army and secessionist Serbs in Krajina.

July 28: Bosnian Serbs and Croatian Serbs declare a stage of war. The Bosnian Croats and the Croatian Army take Bosansko Grahovo, the crucial road link southeast of Bihać, from the Bosnian Serbs. Also taken is the town of Glamoč.

July 31: President Tudjman demands the deployment of the U.N. peacekeepers along Croatia's border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Aug. 2: Massive deployment of troops ahead of offensive, with 100,000 from the Croatian army opposed by 50,000 secessionist Serbs of Krajina.

COLUMN

Britain's Queen Mom celebrates 95th birthday

LONDON (R) — Doting fans queued all night to wish Britain's Queen Mother a happy 95th birthday Friday and poet laureate Ted Hughes likened the country's favourite royal to a mighty oak tree. "She is a people person and she believes people should have more fun when she is around — and they normally do," said they normally do. The Queen Mother, recovering from a cataract operation and sometimes forced into a wheelchair by her frailty, has maintained her popularity throughout 60 tumultuous years for the House of Windsor. She hosted a family lunch Friday for three generations of her family, as well-wishers sing happy birthday outside her home and military gun salutes thunder out across Hyde Park and the Tower of London. Ted Hughes, Britain's official bard as poet laureate, likened the Queen Mother to a mighty oak tree who symbolised the strength of Britain through two world wars and a century that began with her birth. "The years in your face carry the strength of the oak tree and the strength's grace," he said in a specially penned tribute. The Queen Mother, propelled into the limelight with her husband George when King Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry an American divorcee, won the hearts of a nation when comforting bomb blitz victims in World War II.

Yoko to sing for Hiroshima with McCartney

TOKYO (AFP) — Yoko Ono, the widow of former Beatles member John Lennon, will unveil a new song for Hiroshima Sunday, the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing on the Japanese city, with Paul McCartney helping her. Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) will air the song "Hiroshima Sky Is Always Blue" in its morning news programme "Ohayo Nippon (Good Morning Japan)." An NHK official said Friday, "I would like to dedicate this song to Hiroshima, praying that people will stop hurting each other in the world as quickly as possible." Ono reportedly said in a statement. The Japanese artist was married to Lennon, who was shot dead by a fan in New York in 1980. Ono composed the song last year for a play dealing with Hiroshima, and recorded it at a studio owned by McCartney. Lennon's partner in the Beatles until the band's breakup in 1971, the Asahi Shimbun said, McCartney played bass guitar, while Sean Lennon, Ono's son with Lennon, and McCartney's family joined in with keyboards and drums, the newspaper said. The joint recording of the song also marked a reconciliation between Ono and McCartney. Their rift is said to have been a cause for the Beatles' disbandment. "I think it's great there's been a reconciliation between the two as a result of their plea against nuclear weapons," Sanae Saito, a representative of a Tokyo-based Beatles Fan Club, was quoted as saying by Kyodo News Service.

Socialite: Ramos is sexiest man in the Philippines

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos was ranked as the sexiest man in the Philippines by a socialist, who has been romantically linked to him, a business paper said. "President Fidel Ramos because he dresses up very well. He's tall, dark and handsome," Businessworld quoted Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas as saying when asked to name the country's 12 sexiest men. Ms. Arenas, who ran and lost in the race for the Philippine Senate in May elections, has been widely reported to be Mr. Ramos' mistress, but both have denied this. Ms. Arenas said convicted tax dodger Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. who attracted squealing women in the last polls, is not even close to being sexy. "He's got no butt. How can he be sexy?" she said.

More suspects to be OKLAHOMA City... been identified... will be indicted... Saturday... John... Tobacco and... that the suspects... investigating the... building and... all been identified... where they are... Terry Nichols... Authorities initially... have misinterpreted... the case the govern... going to be a...

19 Number 588

Croatia

Bosnia

ZAGREB, Croatia... Backed by a... barracks... troops... stronghold of... setting... the heart of the... Serb rebels... leaving it... when... refugees... towards... held Bosnia... for about... "Aims... remaining... the... four... a... by... Saturday... Bosnia... west... the... between... mean... closing... the... James... spoke... fused... man... Mr. Ba... firing... of... after... 11... Croat... Eastern... said... Serb... Cre... hosts... un... Kom... The... on...

Cabinet allocates JD 259,000 for refugee camp services

AMMAN... Cabinet... approved... 259,000... charge... at... On the... will be... released... Prince... Wafiq... 18,000... 10... 10... camps... 25,000... 10,000... meeting... Shari... Zaid... administrative... regulation... development... to car... telephone... paid... 1,200... of... to allow... agencies... works... to... the... the...

Albanian wants worldwide ban on land mines

KABUL (AP) —... a... one of... are... for... on the... port... and... mines... are... of... are... were... or killed...